

## Ghali, Aziz to discuss Iraqi oil sales

GENEVA (Agencies) — United Nations Secretary-General Boutros Ghali and Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz will meet in Geneva Wednesday to discuss lifting U.N. sanctions against Baghdad. U.N. officials said Tuesday, if Baghdad and the United Nations reach agreement, Iraq could return under tight controls to the already-saturated world market after an absence of three years. Theresia Gastant, chief spokeswoman of the U.N. European headquarters, said the two men would meet Wednesday afternoon, but she declined to reveal details. Dr. Boutros Ghali is eager to get them selling oil because they need the money as another source of U.N. funding, said a U.N. source who asked not to be identified. Talks opened in New York Tuesday between Iraq and U.N. officials on a plan for long-term monitoring of Baghdad's arms programme. The talks scheduled to continue through Sept. 9 are in response to what sources here said was an agreement in principle reached in Baghdad in July with Rolf Ekens, the head of a panel supervising Iraqi disarmament.

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# Peace talks resume; self-rule signing expected

## Husseini: No deal without Jerusalem

Combined agency dispatches

PARIS — The head of Palestinian negotiators at Arab-Israeli talks has said Israel must drop its refusal to discuss the status of Jerusalem if it wants a peace agreement.

Faisal Al Hussein said in an interview published in the French daily Liberation Tuesday that Jerusalem remained the main stumbling block in the peace talks.

"I cannot accept that there will be no talks on the future of Jerusalem for two years," he said. "We must discuss now, secretly and publicly."

The interview reflected continuing uncertainty and differences over the future of Jerusalem, occupied by Israel in 1967, in an historic deal agreement providing for Israeli withdrawal from Jericho and Gaza Strip.

Yasser Abed Rabbo, head of the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) information department, said the PLO and Israel would make "certain arrangements" to cover Jerusalem during the interim period and negotiations over the city's final status would begin two years after the agreement was signed.

Mr. Hussein said an agreement on Gaza and Jericho would be a first step towards a settlement but Palestinians insisted on Israel's withdrawal from all occupied territories.

"If Israel does not change their attitude, do not end the isolation, the encirclement of the Holy City, then you will not find anyone to sign an accord, including on Gaza and Jericho."

Mr. Hussein called Jerusalem the Palestinians' bottom line and said Gaza residents would never accept an agreement leaving aside the fate of Jerusalem.

"If anyone believes we Palestinians can do without east Jerusalem, he is completely mistaken. Previous and bilateral talks have dealt with Jerusalem and Israelis know our position fully well. It is the stumbling block in the talks," he said.

In other developments:

**Arafat's return**

Israel could agree to the return of PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat to the occupied territories following the Palestinian autonomy agreement, Israeli Deputy Defence Minister Motta Gur said.

"It is possible that Israel will agree to the return (of Arafat) on condition that it is presented as an individual case," Mr. Gur said in a radio interview.

Such a case should not be seen as Israel agreeing to the principle of the "right of return" for Palestinian refugees, Mr. Gur underlined.

Mr. Arafat left the West Bank in 1967 when Israel seized the territory.

**Rabinstein boycotts talks**

The head of Israel's negotiating team with the Palestinians said he was boycotting the Middle East peace talks which opened Tuesday in Washington in protest at the autonomy accord.

Eliakim Rabinstein told Israeli radio he would not travel to Washington because he opposed the accord.

**Musa to Israel**

Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa will fly to Israel Wednesday to discuss the agreement between Israel and the PLO, Egyptian Foreign Ministry sources said.

Mr. Musa attended a two-and-a-half hour meeting on Tuesday between Mr. Arafat and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

No further details on Mr. Musa's trip were immediately available.

## Israeli document sees Jordan-W. Bank link

Combined agency dispatches

WASHINGTON — Arabs and Israelis resumed Middle East peace talks in Washington Tuesday and one of the chief Israeli negotiators predicted a historic agreement on Palestinian autonomy would be signed within two weeks.

An official of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) said the text of a declaration of principles was ready for signing but still needed formal PLO approval.

Israel's government foresees an eventual federation linking Jordan with a Palestinian-ruled West Bank and Gaza Strip, the Israeli embassy in Paris said.

The embassy said in a French-language statement summarising Israel's proposal for Palestinian self-rule that Israel remained opposed to the creation of an independent Palestinian state and would keep control of Jerusalem.

The statement said: "For a permanent solution, the Israeli government foresees a confederal or federal arrangement between Jordan and the territories of the West Bank and Gaza, from which Israel would withdraw."

It said: "Israel remains opposed to the creation of an independent Palestinian state." The Palestinians were aware that Israel "will make no compromise on the status of Jerusalem as the undivided capital of Israel under Israeli sovereignty," it said.

"While it is clear the Palestinians will raise the issue of Jerusalem during the negotiations on a permanent status, it should be equally clear that Israel will under no circumstances change its position on this question of principle," the statement said.

## U.S. may shift stance on PLO, but not Palestine

Combined agency dispatches

WASHINGTON — U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher indicated Tuesday that the United States was reconsidering its refusal to hold talks with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

"There is no chance at the present time. We had our concerns in the past but we will be following closely the situation as it evolves," Mr. Christopher told a small group of journalists.

Mr. Christopher reaffirmed U.S. opposition to establishment of a Palestinian state. He said statehood was not part of the accord Israel and the PLO have worked out.

"It does not take the step" while spelling out what is due to happen over the next five years, Mr. Christopher said.

Besides, he said, "The United States has never supported a Palestinian state."

On talking to the PLO, however, Mr. Christopher said, "obviously there are developments taking place that we are going to follow very carefully."

The Reagan administration in December 1988 dropped a ban on dealing with the PLO after PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat renounced "terrorism" and acknowledged Israel's existence.

The Bush administration resumed the prohibition in June 1990 after a raid on Tel Aviv beaches by elements of the PLO.

Israel, meanwhile, conducted dozens of meetings with Mr. Arafat's group, the last of which led to the agreement to establish Palestinian administration over Gaza and the West Bank town of Jericho.

The State Department's office of counter-terrorism describes the PLO as an umbrella organisation some parts of which support "terrorism" while others do not.

The Israel-PLO agreement could lead to mutual recognition.

Mr. Christopher said the United States strongly supports the Israel-PLO agreement, calling it a "conceptual breakthrough."

"We strongly support the

The Israel-PLO agreement foresees self-rule for the Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied Gaza Strip and in West Bank town of Jericho, as a first step towards autonomy for all Palestinians in the West Bank.

In Washington the head of the Israeli delegation negotiating with the Syrians, Itamar Rabinovich, said in Washington that a signing ceremony for the autonomy agreement would take place within two weeks. "It will take a couple of days to crystallise," he said.

But Nabil Shaath of the PLO said no more work on the text was needed. "Everything is finished," he said.

"Of course it requires the approval of the (PLO) Executive Committee, as it did of the cabinet of Israel," he added.

The Israeli cabinet approved the agreement on Monday night.

See page 4 for full text of proposed 'declaration of principles'

"We have a deal that should make the two sides happy and that I think goes way beyond a typical interim agreement," Dr. Shaath added. "The agreement is all-encompassing. It sets the agenda for the final settlement."

Mr. Rabinovich said he hoped for progress in Israel's demand for peace with Syria, but added: "To be realistic I don't think an agreement can be reached between Israel and Syria that soon."

Palestinian negotiators arriving here Monday said word of the Gaza-Jericho agreement caught them by complete surprise when it started leaking out over the weekend.

"For 22 months we were the

appetizers," said the deputy leader of the Palestinian delegation, Saeb Erakat, who was being briefed on details of the pact Monday night. "Now it's time for the main course," said Dr. Erakat, a resident of Jericho.

To prepare for the formal talks, members of the Israeli, Palestinian, Syrian, Jordanian and Lebanese delegations on Monday called on Dennis Ross, an aide to Secretary of State Warren Christopher, and other U.S. officials.

At Monday's meeting with Arab delegates, U.S. officials discussed some of the stickier details, such as Israel's insistence that it retain jurisdiction and control over the estimated 3,300 Jewish settlers in Gaza and Jericho.

Under the PLO-Israeli plan, Israeli forces would be removed from Palestinian population centres in Gaza and Jericho but still

would be deployed in areas inhabited by the settlers, according to diplomats familiar with the document.

The Israeli military also would retain control over the border crossings between Gaza and Egypt and between the Jericho area and Jordan.

Asked if a "declaration of principles" on Syrian-Israeli peace could be reached during the current round, Mr. Rabinovich told reporters:

"Within this round, that probably would be over-stated, but our Syrian counterparts spoke of trying to achieve it during this round or next, which I think makes it more realistic."

Chief Syrian negotiator Mouaf-

faq Allaf expressed hope that progress with the Palestinians would have positive effects on other talks. Mr. Rabinovich said the pact could spur progress towards a Syrian-Israeli agreement.

"To be realistic, I don't think an agreement can be reached between Israel and Syria that soon," Mr. Rabinovich added.

Earlier, Israeli foreign Minister Shimon Peres told CBS television in Israel that once the PLO renounces "terrorism" and the goal of destroying Israel, "it could become a regular political party and we would gladly talk with them."

"We are right now in a very dynamic stage, and things are really running ahead full force and it may happen quite soon, there will be some new hurdles on the road," he said.

Outside the State Department, 30 demonstrators of the late militant Rabbi Meir Kahane shouted slogans against Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin for secretly working out a pact with the PLO.

"Rabin is a traitor," "not an inch of eretz (greater) Israel," "Peace now, war later," chanted the protesters.

An Israeli newspaper poll published Tuesday showed 74 per cent of Palestinians in the occupied territories back the agreement with Israel on self-rule.

The Dahab telephone poll of 504 Palestinians for the Yedioth Ahronoth newspaper showed 24 per cent opposed the agreement while two per cent had no opinion.

The poll, the first survey by Dahab of Palestinians in the occupied territories, had a margin of error of four per cent.

Chief Syrian negotiator Mouaf-



His Majesty King Hussein with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad in Damascus on Tuesday (Petra photo)

## King, Assad discuss Arab coordination in peace talks

### Jordan, Syria 'surprised' by Israel-PLO deal; Lebanon says self-rule plan is flawed

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter and agency dispatches

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday paid a working visit to Syria where he held talks with President Hafez Al Assad on the latest developments in the Middle East peace process, and Arab coordination in the 22-month-old Arab-Israeli peace talks.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said the discussions between the King and President Assad included a closed-door session without aides and covered "bilateral issues and means of restoring Arab solidarity."

The two leaders "stressed the importance of Arab coordination in ensuring a just, durable and comprehensive peace" in the Middle East.

It did not elaborate. But the King's trip to Syria came after an agreement between the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Israel on limited Palestinian autonomy in the occupied territories.

Syrian presidential spokesman Jibril Kuriyeh confirmed that the Israel-PLO accord was discussed by the King and President Assad.

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Lebanese port city of Tripoli was shattered in a one-day strike called by Palestinian factions, including the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP), being

Shops and cafes were closed, hundreds of rioters blocked approaches to the shahid with barricades of burnt tires.

Other staged protest marches denouncing Mr. Arafat.

Mr. Jibril, a former Syrian army captain and longtime rival of Arafat, charged Monday that the Arafat plan would trigger a civil war in the occupied territories.

He warned that Mr. Arafat would be assassinated like Egypt's late President Anwar Sadat if he signs the Gaza-Jericho accord.

The spokesman for the nearly 400 Palestinian expellees stranded in southeast Lebanon since last December said Israel's objective under the new plan was to "drown the territories in a civil war bloodbath."

But Gaza physician Abdul Aziz Rantisi objected to Mr. Jibril's assassination threat, saying his Hamas movement would strive to prevent a war between rival Palestinian camps erupting.

"Israel wants from this plan to have Palestinians liquidating each other," Dr. Rantisi said.

"We in Hamas are not going to allow this to happen. We can thwart the plan by other methods that civil strife and assassinations."

Strikes in Lebanon

Palestinians staged a general strike and burned tyres in Syrian-controlled refugee camps in north Lebanon Tuesday to protesting the limited self-rule plan.

The Nahr Al Bared and Baddawi camps near the northern

favoured "any progress made by the parties" to the conflict.

"This is a positive step," a spokesman at the Foreign Office said.

He added that "there is much work still to be done," and that "that British government would continue to make every effort to promote progress."

The Vatican, which is negotiating with Israel on diplomatic ties, welcomed the deal between Israel and the PLO and called for a Palestinian homeland and security for the Jewish state.

Experts said the breakthrough on Palestinian self-rule would remove a major obstacle for Vatican recognition of Israel and make a papal trip to the Holy Land more likely.

The British government said it

## Arafat seeks to defend his deal with Israel

Combined agency dispatches

PALESTINIAN LEADER Yasser Arafat Tuesday sought to defend his separate deal with Israel as details emerged of the autonomy plan for the Palestinians that has shaken their Arab partners in the Middle East peace talks.

Mr. Arafat, who called the deal "courageous and brave," said he telephoned Syrian President Hafez Al Assad during the meeting with Mr. Arafat. Mr. Mubarak and Mr. Arafat said they would meet Mr. Assad soon.

Speaking to reporters late on Monday, Mr. Arafat dismissed suggestions that Syria and Jordan opposed the agreement.

"This is completely incorrect that they are not happy with the accord," he said.

Mr. Arafat was asked about Israel demands that the PLO remove from its covenant references to "armed struggle," thereby eliminating the idea of destroying Israel.

What is mentioned in the charter about armed struggle has been superseded by (the) peace talks," he said.

He denied that the PLO's financial crisis pressured him into accepting the plan. He said he even rejected an offer by the United States, Europe, Japan and Gulf countries of \$500 million to agree to an accord giving the Palestinians early empowerment in the occupied territories.

"No one sells a grain of his country's earth for any sum of money," he said.

PLO official Yasser Abed Rabbo said the agreement, hammered out secretly in Norway,

signing it needs a month to approve it and directly after this month the implementation will begin," Mr. Arafat said.

He did not make clear who would have to approve it.

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## European leaders hail Gaza-Jericho plan

Combined agency dispatches

BONN (Agencies) — European leaders hailed the proposed peace accord between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Tuesday with Germany calling it "a courageous step" towards ending more than 30 years of hatred and animosity.

"It is important for the future that this courageous first step by Israel and the Palestinians be able to garner mutual approval," German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel said in a communique.

He added that his government was aware that the outline agreement for Palestinian autonomy in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho would need financial backing by the international community and that Germany was ready to increase aid to the territories in question.

In Paris, French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe called the agreement a decisive step in ending the bitter Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

"It is the first time in decades that a real ray of sunshine can be seen in the cloudy skies of the Middle East," he said. "This step is decisive but a lot still needs to be done."

Mr. Juppe had a telephone conversation with his Israeli counterpart Shimon Peres, who informed him of the latest developments, his office said.

A spokesman for the Spanish foreign ministry also welcomed the accord calling it "the most important step" taken since Middle East peace talks opened in Madrid in 1991.

The British government said it

would cover all territory Israel took in the 1967 Middle East war.

"The agreement is not limited to Gaza and Jericho and this should be clarified. The agreement is for an interim arrangement and autonomy in all the occupied territories in the West Bank and in Gaza," Mr. Abed Rabbo, head of the PLO's information department, told reporters.

He said "certain arrangements" had been reached on Jerusalem, a crucial and hotly debated issue, but gave no details.

Commenting on warnings by the fundamentalist group Hamas that the occupied territories would descend into civil war, Mr. Arafat said: "This is not what will happen. The Palestinian police will take charge of Palestinian security."

Mr. Mubarak said: "Ahead of us is a gruelling period of negotiations but I really salute this decision. These issues need a brave and courageous decision."

Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa travels to Israel on Wednesday for talks with officials there, foreign ministry sources said.

Palestinians staged a general strike and burned tyres in Syrian-controlled refugee camps in north Lebanon Tuesday to protesting the limited self-rule plan.

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## Missile explodes at Iraqi test site; U.N. camera is destroyed

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — An explosion during an Iraqi missile test destroyed one of the cameras that U.N. experts had installed to make sure Baghdad was not developing long-range rockets, a U.N. official said Tuesday.

Monday's explosion occurred while U.N. experts were looking on, but caused no casualties, according to the official who requested anonymity. "One of the cameras disappeared. It was bad luck," he added.

United Nations experts earlier this month set up six cameras at Yawn Al Azim and Al Rafah, two missile testing sites south of Baghdad, following a week-long standoff with Iraqi authorities.

The official did not say where the blast occurred.

The cameras were to be activated following talks on Iraqi disarmament which the United Nations and Iraq were to begin in New York Tuesday.

A three-member U.N. team that has been in Iraq since Wednesday was only 50 metres from the site of the explosion which occurred during "the test of a missile engine," the U.N. official said.

The team continued its mission despite the incident and visited one of the two sites earlier Tuesday, he said.

On Monday, the television station owned by President Saddam Hussein's eldest son Uday broadcast pictures of the different stages of the test as well as the explosion — the first time Iraqi viewers were able to watch a missile test.

"Such an explosion is normal and happens often," in this kind of test, the television commentator said.

The U.N. team headed by Guy Martelle of the United States is charged with monitoring tests of missiles which have a range of less than 150 kilometres, as allowed under U.N. resolutions ending the 1991 Gulf war.

Iraqi officials said they had an overall estimate of damage or whether there were injuries in Monday's blast.

An official said the explosion led to "a lot of damage in the missile test facility and destroyed one of the cameras."

U.N. talks open

Talks opened at the United Nations Tuesday on long-term monitoring of Iraq's weapons potential. The talks are expected to continue until Sept. 9 and then resume in Baghdad at some future date, a U.N. official said.

The 15-member Iraqi team is led by General Amir Rasheed, director of Baghdad's Military Industrialisation Authority, who has cabinet rank.

Rolf Ekenes, Executive chairman of the U.N. special commission responsible for scrapping Iraq's weapons of mass destruction, will head the U.N. negotiating group.

Arriving at U.N. headquarters for a preliminary meeting on Monday, Gen. Rasheed smiled and waved to reporters, saying: "We come with the full intention to resolve outstanding issues on monitoring and... other things. We come in good high spirits."

## Rabin's approach to peace is full of stunts and surprises

TEL AVIV (R) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said his government wouldn't talk to the PLO. It did.

He said a peace accord was possible only with the help of the United States. He was wrong.

Since taking office 13 months ago he had kept Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, his longtime rival, far from the negotiations limelight. This time Mr. Peres was in the thick of it.

In a matter of weeks Mr. Rabin's path to a Middle East peace breakthrough took one swift and surprising turn after another.

What will be done next? Officially recognise the PLO? Allow PLO leader Yasser Arafat to make his home in Jericho?

His actions so far have drawn a swift response in Israel.

Backers praise the 71-year-old soldier-turned-politician for bold leadership. Critics accuse him of breaking every important promise he ever made.

For years Israel banned talks with the Palestine Liberation Organisation, branding it a "terrorist" group bent on destroying the Jewish state.

After Rabin came to power, Israel softened the ban, allowing private unofficial contacts with the Tunis-based organisation.

Official contacts remained off limits — until July.

Then in Cairo, Environment Minister Yossi Sarid, a darling of the Israeli left, met Nabil Shaath, an aide to Mr. Arafat, he did it with Mr. Rabin's approval.

Mr. Rabin's spokesman de-

fended the meeting as a "contact" and not "negotiations."

Any settlement, the spokesman said, would be ironed out only with Palestinians from the occupied territories at peace talks in Washington.

Within days he was proven wrong. On Aug. 20, Mr. Peres secretly met a PLO official in Norway.

On Monday Mr. Rabin told backers it was those understandings achieved in Oslo that clinched agreement on general principles for Palestinian self-rule in the occupied territories.

The agreement was reached not only in secret but without the involvement even of the official negotiators to the 22-month-old peace talks. Israel's chief peace negotiator Eljiahu Rabinstein threatened to quit for being kept out of the picture.

Also far from centre stage was the United States, Israel's closest ally and the chief broker in Israel's peace talks, launched in Madrid in October 1991, with Syria, Lebanon, Jordan and the Palestinians.

For months Mr. Rabin said history had shown Washington's involvement was essential to forging Arab-Israeli peace.

Secretary of State Warren Christopher promised to help bridge the many gaps between the Israeli and Palestinian positions. But that was after the fact.

He got word of the agreement only second hand.

Lacking a dialogue with the PLO, Washington forfeited centre stage in Norway, a self-styled



Yitzhak Rabin, honest broker in world affairs with a particular interest in the Middle East.

Only after agreement was reached, Peres and Norwegian Foreign Minister Johan Jorgen Holst flew to California to inform Mr. Christopher of the details.

It was a coup for Mr. Peres, a 70-year-old career politician and a master of secret diplomacy who met Morocco's King Hassan in 1986.

But for longtime observers of the Israeli political front, what was most remarkable was that Mr. Rabin allowed Mr. Peres so prominent a role in their distrust perceived to be that Mr. Rabin once berated Mr. Peres as an "indefatigable schemer."

When Mr. Rabin led their Labour Party to victory in June 1992, he gave himself the task of managing Israel's headline-grabbing direct talks with the Arabs.

He assigned Mr. Peres the role of overseeing a multi-national negotiations on such issues as economic development, arms control and the environment.

Yet on Monday when the two political warriors faced supporters, they stood together. Mr. Rabin praised Mr. Peres for his efforts. He spoke of their partnership for peace.

## Norway mediators helped break ice

OSLO (R) — The five Norwegians who secretly mediated between Israelis and Palestinians this year created a relaxed family atmosphere that helped break the ice between foes, officials said on Tuesday.

Foreign Minister Johan Jorgen Holst said late Monday that Norway had hosted 14 secret meetings this year, some at his home and in a farmhouse, between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) on a deal paving the way for Palestinian self-rule in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"It gives a very special atmosphere when one meets two couples at home," he said, convinced that this had a very big and positive influence for the talks.

Mr. Holst told the daily Verdens Gang on Tuesday.

Mr. Holst is married to Marianne Heiberg, a researcher at Norway's FAFO, the institute for applied social science, who took part in the talks.

Mr. Heiberg's boss at FAFO, Terje Roed-Larsen, is married to Mona Jun, a senior foreign ministry official — forming the other Norwegian couple taking part in the talks.

Mr. Holst said negotiations had often seemed close to collapse but were helped by close relationships built up between the Israeli and PLO participants — whom he refused to name.

An Israeli revenge bombardment of South Lebanon in July barely affected the tone of the talks, he told reporters.

FAFO ran a study of living conditions for Palestinians in the occupied territories from the late 1980s. The study helped build up Norway's contacts with the PLO and Israel and was requested by both sides for secret talks in Norway.

The only one of the five Norwegian insiders not married to another was Jan Egeland, state secretary at the foreign ministry. The negotiators and the five Norwegians met in secret locations around southern Norway from the start of the year.

Such "dynasties" are often criticised in Norway — a country with no aristocracy but where a tiny intellectual elite seems to have a disproportionate share of power.

But officials say family ties between prominent Norwegians may be inevitable in a nation of just 4.3 million people.

Foreign ministry spokesman Ingvard Havnen said the family ties between the negotiators and the five Norwegians met in secret locations around southern Norway from the start of the year.

"The participants were chosen because of their special abilities and knowledge of the Mideast, not because they were related," he said. Norway has long seen itself as an honest broker in world affairs.

In another family twist, the wife of former Foreign Minister Thorvald Stoltenberg, Karin Stoltenberg, is the sister of Mr. Holst's wife.

Mr. Stoltenberg became U.N. peace mediator in former Yugoslavia from April, handing over as foreign minister to Mr. Holst.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Gunmen attack U.S. troop compound in Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) — Gunmen raked a U.S. military compound with machine gun fire as soldiers slept, in the first such attack since a U.S.-led coalition liberated Kuwait in 1991, the Kuwaiti press reported Tuesday. The assailants sparked fires and broke windows but caused no casualties when they attacked the building southeast of Kuwait City at dawn Monday, news agency said. Photographs showed walls riddled with bullets and other damage. The Kuwaiti Minister of Interior and the U.S. embassy refused to comment on the incident. Walt Clark, a U.S. soldier living in the building, told Al Anbaa newspaper that he had seen a bearded man in a car opposite the building who disappeared after the attack. Some 200 U.S. soldiers are based permanently in Kuwait where they take care of military equipment kept under a defence accord concluded after the emirate's liberation from Iraqi occupation in February 1991.

### Arson seen in blaze at Algerian oil firm

ALGIERS (AFP) — An overnight fire which destroyed part of the Algerian state oil company's piping factory near here was due to arson, security officials said on Tuesday. The blaze at Baraki burned down the administrative offices, a chemicals storehouse and the company dining-hall. Another pre-dawn fire at Bida 50 kilometres from the capital swept through a municipal depot and destroyed 17 coaches and three trucks. The security authorities also disclosed that on Sunday night arsonists razed a shoe factory. One of the night watchmen recounted how about 50 armed and masked men burst in and made the guards kneel against the walls with their hands in the air before setting fire to the plant. Security officials said that in separate attacks by armed gangs on Sunday, five civilians were killed, in villages near Algiers and in western regions.

### Greece takes in 35 stranded Iraqis

ANKARA (R) — Greece has taken in 35 Iraqi asylum-seekers who were stranded at sea after Turkey refused to accept them, a Greek diplomat said Tuesday. "We took them to Greece on Saturday night," the diplomat said. "They were on hunger strike and we couldn't just leave them in the middle of the sea." He said the Greek authorities would contact the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) about what to do with them. Greece deported the 35 Iraqis from the Aegean Sea island of Chios on Thursday after rejecting their asylum requests and put them on land for Turkey from where they were said to have come. Turkish coastguards refused to let the boat carrying the Iraqis into Turkish territorial waters.

### Iran police seize Australian embassy liquor

CANBERRA (R) — Iranian police have seized a consignment of goods including 250 cases of alcohol from the Australian embassy in Tehran, the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs said Tuesday. A department spokesman said the consignment of imported beer, wine and spirits was being unloaded outside the embassy when it was seized. "We haven't been given any reason and we're discussing it with Iranian authorities," he said. The Resalat newspaper in Iran quoted Tehran police chief General Abdullah Oqbai on Monday as saying the alcohol had arrived in Iran via the Gulf port of Bandar Abbas. Alcoholic beverages are banned under Iran's Islamic laws but most foreign embassies use diplomatic privilege to import liquor for their staff. "Iranian authorities are aware that it's a long-standing practice, but from time to time they do single out embassies," the spokesman said.

### Switzerland recalls Ankara envoy

BERNE (R) — Switzerland said Tuesday it was recalling its ambassador and two other embassy employees from Ankara, in line with a demand from Turkey and only under protest. The two countries have been locked in a diplomatic row since June over the shooting of 29-year-old Kurdish demonstrator Semettin Kurt outside Turkey's embassy in Bern. Turkey had demanded the recall of the Swiss diplomats last week in reprisal for Bern's demand for the lifting of the diplomatic immunity of the Turkish ambassador. "The federal council has decided to recall from Ankara the Swiss Ambassador Paul-André Ramseier and the two embassy staff members Heinrich Maurer and Jean-Pierre Baumeyer," a Swiss foreign ministry statement said. But it added: "The federal council once more underlines its protest against Turkey's unjustified demand for the recall of the ambassador and the two embassy staff."

### Libyan throws lifeline to Scottish miners

EDINBURGH (R) — Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi has thrown £5 million (\$7.5 million) lifeline to a Scottish miners' cooperative threatened with closure, local media reported Tuesday. Former Labour Member of Parliament Ron Brown said Libya agreed last week to invest the money to save Monktonhall colliery from closure. "They know in Scotland that there is a different attitude politically and they hope no doubt to win friends through their connections," Mr. Brown told the Scotsman newspaper. "They know workers should be partners and not wage earners." He said he had been to Tripoli, the Libyan capital, with Jackie Aitchison, chairman of the miners cooperative. The deal would enable Libya to invest in the Monktonhall pit without taking control.

### Iran police impose tough rules on weddings

TEHRAN (AFP) — Police have imposed tough regulations on weddings in the southern Iranian city of Shiraz in a bid to maintain Islamic standards, Salam newspaper reported Monday. It said police in the ancient city had issued a statement banning a range of activities traditionally associated with wedding ceremonies in Iran. As part of the new measures, all printing houses have to submit a copy of wedding invitations and keep police informed of the ceremonies, the statement said. Restaurants and banquet houses reserved for wedding ceremonies are to notify the police 24 hours before the event and to ban music and dancing on the premises. Music and dancing will also be forbidden during wedding parades through the streets, and permits need to be issued for every ceremony.

## Pressure mounts in Washington on Somalia policy

By Charles Aldinger  
Reuters

WASHINGTON — Monday's raid in Mogadishu by elite U.S. troops who captured only innocent international aid workers has increased pressure on the Clinton administration to clarify American policy in Somalia.

Experts say the latest failure by members of a U.N. force of over 24,000 soldiers to strike effectively at fugitive warlord Muhammad Farah Aideded reflects the difficulty of a quick military solution to anarchy in that country.

Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, in a magazine interview published this week, accused his White House successor of ignoring problems in far too long and for elated attempts to fix a social problems with military club.

Despite president Bill Clinton's personal defence of joint U.N. and U.S. policy in Somalia after Monday's raid, analysts warned that Washington may be stumbling towards a long military presence by expanding policy from humanitarian aid to capturing Aideded and rebuilding the country.

"This has gone a long way from a simple humanitarian mission to deliver food," said Richard Haass, a former member of the National Security Council staff and now with the private Carnegie Endowment in Washington.

"We are talking about nation-building. We are talking about military defeating resistance," Mr. Haass said in an NBC television network interview after the helicopter raid by elite U.S. Army Rangers,

who arrived in Mogadishu only last week.

The raid was based on intelligence reports that at least some of General Aideded's top lieutenants might be in a building. The building proved empty and the troops, sliding down ropes from helicopters, briefly detained nine international aid workers and Somali U.N. guards nearby.

It was a highly visible mistake and will only add to questions about U.S. policy in Somalia — questions likely to be taken up in earnest when Congress returns from its summer recess next week.

### NEWS ANALYSIS

Defence Secretary Les Aspin last week said U.S. forces must stay in the country until security was restored in Mogadishu, progress was made in disarming warlords and police were in control in major cities.

Tom McNaughton of the private Brookings Institution and other analysts said initial international expectations were high that a U.N. military force could quickly solve Somalia's problems — but those hopes were plunging.

There are nearly 5,000 U.S. troops in Somalia, including some 400 newly arrived Rangers, helping provide communications and security for the U.N. humanitarian operation.

While that is a small part of



U.N. German soldiers collect the U.S. grenades and explosives (smoking) that were used in Monday morning's raid on a U.N. Development Programme house in Mogadishu (AFP Photo).

the total U.N. force, U.S. military officials are deeply involved in running the military operation.

done and, in any case, would not solve the long-term problems in Somalia.

"Even if you get (Aideded), there are going to be other problems," Mr. Haass agreed. "Somalia cannot be fixed by getting rid of Aideded or some other single person."

Experts said that Mr. Aspin had really outlined a programme to keep troops in Somalia, not get them out — a step known at the Pentagon as a "mission creep."

Mr. Clinton stressed after Monday's raid that the United States was only following U.N. policy in Somalia and Washington was trying to "fulfill our original mission" of making sure food and other aid reached Somalis.

"We have tried to be cooperative with the policies that have been jointly developed," he said. "We have not been simply driving this. We have really tried to work within the framework of the U.N. to prove that this thing can work over the long run."

In an interview published on Monday in the Paris-based African magazine Jeune Afrique Economie, Mr. Carter criticised the policy role of U.S. troops in Somalia.

"The United States should be on the front line to solve Africa's problems," the former president said, suggesting that military force was not the answer.

"Lightening the continent's debt burden, launching health, education and democratisation programmes, solving conflicts are beautiful missions that the United States must imperatively tackle in the future," he said.

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

### JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77311-19

### PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 L'histoire Chevalier de Grèce  
19:00 News in French  
19:15 Ushuaia  
19:30 News in Hebrew  
20:00 News in Arabic  
21:30 Night Court  
21:10 Documentary  
22:00 News in English  
22:20 Shattered Promises

### PRAYER TIMES

04:45 Fajr  
06:05 (Sunrise) Dhuha  
12:30 Dhur  
16:12 'Asr  
18:46 Maghrib  
20:27 'Isha

### CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedish, Tel. 810740  
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785  
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590  
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440  
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757  
Terrence Church Tel. 622366  
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541  
Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543

### Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 772661

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751

Armenian International Church Tel. 622526

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 623526

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 623824, 624932

Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691

### WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Relative hot weather conditions will continue with gradual drop in temperatures. Winds will be northwesterly moderate and active in the afternoon. In Aqaba, hot weather conditions will prevail, winds will be northerly moderate and sea calm.

Min./Max. temp.

Amman 22/34

Aqaba 41/28

Dauiri 20/39

Jordan Valley 40/36

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 38, Aqaba 43. Humidity readings: Amman 15 per cent, Aqaba 25 per cent.

### USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

#### NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:  
Dr. Nidal Al Mahseri 751672  
Dr. Hassan Mansour 730191  
Dr. Jam' Al-Din 738948  
Dr. Nasser Ibrahim 831039  
Fire pharmacy 661912  
Fire pharmacy 778236  
Fire pharmacy 636730  
Fire pharmacy 636760  
Fire pharmacy 636772  
Najib pharmacy 847632

#### BRIDGES

Dr. Mohammed Al Zu'bi 777731

Al Quds pharmacy (—)

#### ZARQA

Dr. Youssef Awad 988075

Khalid pharmacy 985417

### Civil Defence Department 661111

Civil Defence Immediate 630441

Civil Defence Emergency 199

Roscoe Police 192, 621111, 637777

Roscoe Police 891228

Blood Bank 843402

Highway Police 843402

Traffic Police 896390

Public Security Department 630321

Police Complaints 605800

Police Complaints 61176

Water and Sewerage 897467

Complaints 787111

Complaints 787111

Complaints 787111

Complaints 787111

Complaints 787111

Complaints 787111

Complaints 787111

Complaints 787111

Complaints 787111

### HUMAN MEDICAL CENTRE

Khalid Maternity, J. Amn. 642214

Khalid Maternity, J. Amn. 642412

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### ROYAL JORDANIAN (RJ) FLIGHTS



## Queen stresses specificity of rural women's needs

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor met today (Tuesday) at Al-Ma'wa Palace with a group of professionals and specialists representing various Jordanian institutions and United Nations organisations working in the field of women and rural development to discuss means of implementing the Geneva Declaration for the advancement of Rural Women in Jordan.

Queen Noor stressed the importance of dealing with women's issues and development priorities as part of the family and the community, while at the same time emphasising the specificity of rural women's needs and gender disparities.

During the meeting, Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF) President, In'am Mafti briefed the group on the specific needs of Jordanian women.

An extensive discussion took place regarding the mechanism through which all involved institutions in Jordan can best coordinate and work together

to improve the quality of life of rural women.

Today's meeting is one of the follow-up activities which the Queen is undertaking in her capacity as member of the International Follow-up Steering Committee (ISC), which was formed following the 1992 International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) Summit on the Economic Advancement of Rural Women with the purpose of monitoring and evaluating mechanisms for the implementation of the summit's Geneva Declaration.

A series of meetings and workshops will be held under the Queen's patronage to formulate a comprehensive strategy for the advancement of rural women that will be coordinated with and integrated within the Higher National Women's Commission's Strategy for Women.

In order to be able to work scientifically on formulating a strategy for rural women, Queen Noor recommended

establishing an updated data base which would include information and statistics pertaining to the situation of development work in rural areas as well as to that of women in development.

The meeting concluded by forming three working committees.

The first as a technical committee charged with collecting relevant information pertaining to development projects in rural areas specifically those targeting rural women.

The second committee was assigned the task of organising the collection of data from rural women regarding their development needs and priorities, and formulating ideas and plans on how best to address those needs as well as evaluating previous initiatives and programmes implemented in rural areas for the purpose of strategising for future work.

The third committee will study and propose options for plans of action regarding the empowerment of rural women.

## Majali says government will act to promote exports

AMMAN (Petra) — The government will take several measures and issue laws that would promote Jordan's exports said Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali.

These measures include the creation of an institution for insuring exports, granting further exemptions to export industries, setting up specialised trade fairs, strengthening trade relations with sister Arab countries, facilitating customs procedures, expanding the free zones and improving the process of loading and unloading and storing goods at port, said Dr. Majali in an address delivered on his behalf by Jawad Al Anani, minister of state for prime ministry affairs.

But all these steps regrettably cannot be accomplished with speed; although the government is determined to adopt them in its economic policies, from which there will be no turning back, said the prime minister.

Addressing a group of businessmen representing the commercial sector in Jordan, the premier said "we are pursuing the road of liberating the economy and prices and reducing trade formalities to a minimum. At the same time, we are raising the efficiency of the public administration services."

"No doubt you are aware of the steps taken by the government to grant more authority to provincial governors. This move is aimed at promoting the various governorates to take their share

in stimulating the economy in Jordan," said Dr. Majali.

The decentralisation policies will no doubt result in developing the administrative system at a lesser cost, added the premier.

Noting that there was urgent need for adjusting and rectifying the relationship between the taxation system and government expenditures, the prime minister said tax collection is meagre compared with tax averages required under the Income Tax Law.

Dr. Majali said the income tax system does not provide a just and fair ground for the implementation of the law.

The government plans to revise the existing Customs Law with a view to reducing the procedures and removing conflicting points contained in the law, noted the prime minister.

"It is true that the successive governments had introduced improvements to the present customs law but we still believe that this law is in need of re-examination because customs duty constitutes the main income for the state," Dr. Majali explained.

Referring to the controversial Sales Tax Law which has not yet been applied, the prime minister said numerous studies have been prepared, all of them proving that the existing law was fairer than the projected law imposed on consumption.

"I do realise that the application of the sales tax law would be



Minister of State for Prime Ministry Affairs Jawad Al Anani Tuesday addresses commercial businessmen (Petra photo)

facing difficulties, and I am in need of your cooperation here," Dr. Majali said.

The prime minister said the government believes that the relationship between the private and public sectors should be based on mutual confidence so that each sector can play its role in serving the national economy.

"What we hope to see, he added, is a kind of growing trend in Jordan, capable of providing commodities with efficiency and competitiveness, benefiting the

consumers, and at the same time, enabling the merchants to make reasonable profits."

But, he added, free trade should be also free of monopoly, deception and manipulation and other unorthodox dealings unacceptable to any society.

He said, "we want the local commercial sector to be more organised and reformed."

Several merchants spoke during a dialogue later, outlining the various problems that impede the work of the commercial sector in

Jordan.

They demanded a revision of the existing customs law and the duty on several commodities.

They also demanded that the government reconsider its decision to transfer the Ramtha border customs centre to Jaber centre and grant the free zones in Zarqa and Aqaba wider powers.

Concerning the sales tax law, the merchants said that it should only be applied within the framework of a comprehensive reform of the taxation system.

## Minister says typhoid reports are only high fever cases

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Health Minister Abdul Rahim Malhas Tuesday denied that the cases of fever in the Ajloun area recently were typhoid.

Press reports had said that 12 cases of typhoid had appeared in the Ajloun area two days ago, raising the number to 17 Tuesday, but these were all cases of high fever, said the minister in a statement to the Jordan Times.

Dr. Malhas said that the patients now under treatment at the Imam Government Hospital in Ajloun are being monitored, and culture samples are being taken to determine whether the individuals are suffering from typhoid.

The minister also stressed that

Jordan is free of cholera, despite the spread of diseases in several countries.

He said, however, the ministry is conducting a wide-spread campaign to ensure that water supplies, water trucks and vegetables and fruits are uncontaminated.

The minister advised that extra care be taken by households when washing vegetables and fruits.

Also Tuesday, the Ministry of Health announced the closure of 37 bakeries and the fining of 190 others because they violated health safety regulations and failed to follow instructions set by the health authorities concerning hygiene. Of those bakeries closed and fined, nine in Amman, 10 in Zarqa, 10 in Ajloun, 10 in Irbid, 10 in Aqaba, 10 in Maan, 10 in Madaba, and 10 in Karak.



Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali Tuesday meets with Lebanese Minister of Agriculture Adel Qirtas (Petra photo)

## British envoy retires, lauding Jordan's stands

AMMAN (Petra) — British Ambassador to Jordan Patrick Eyles Tuesday praised Jordan's role at the regional forum and voiced hope that "the next round of bilateral negotiations will lead to an important step towards the comprehensive and just peace which the region so badly needs."

In a statement Mr. Eyles made on the occasion of the end of his tour of duty in Jordan, the British envoy said there are likely to be new and encouraging developments in the region very soon.

He lauded Jordan's efforts and ability to transcend the crisis resulting from the Gulf war.

"When I arrived here in April 1991, I found Jordan emerging from a critical period," he said.

On Jordan's differences with Great Britain during the Gulf war, Mr. Eyles said "the perceived differences in Jordanian-British relations at the time of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and during the war had also tested our relations."

However, he said, the two sides sought to overcome these differences.

"It was clear from the start of my time here that you and we were keen to put these differences behind us," he said.

He expressed appreciation for the warm welcome he and his wife received in Jordan, and said he was lucky to have Amman as his last diplomatic post before retirement.

## Jordan to provide Lebanon with assistance — Majali

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali Tuesday said Jordan was ready to offer assistance and medicine to the people of southern Lebanon victimized by repeated Israeli aggressions into the area. He added that the Kingdom would also provide them with cement to help them reconstruct demolished homes.

The prime minister, who was speaking at a meeting with visiting Lebanese Minister of Agriculture Adel Qirtas, said Jordanian

universities would also offer Lebanese students scholarships to continue their higher education.

Discussion during the meeting covered means of facilitating the exchange of agricultural products between Jordan and Lebanon and other related matters in implementation of an existing trade agreement between the two countries.

Dr. Majali was quoted as expressing his satisfaction with the state of relations between Jordan

and Lebanon and efforts being made to promote bilateral cooperation in various fields.

Agriculture Minister Marwan Kamal, Director of the Agricultural Marketing Organisation (AMO) Salem Al Lawzi and Ahmad Ibrahim, Lebanon's ambassador to Jordan, were present at the meeting with the premier.

Dr. Qirtas, who arrived in Amman Monday, was due to leave for home Wednesday.

## HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

### Royal decree endorses Cabinet decision on postings

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Royal Decree was issued Tuesday endorsing several decisions taken by the Council of Ministers last week. According to the decree, the following changes are effective as of today Sept. 1, 1993: — Khaled Mahadeen, the director general of the Jordan News Agency, Petra, will become an advisor at the prime ministry, and retain the same rank and salary. — Mohammad Amin Saqaf Al Hait will become Director General of the Department of Press and Publications, succeeding Issa Jahmani, who was retired. — Abdullah Utom, a senior official at Petra, has been promoted to Director General of the News Agency. — Mr. Mahadeen held the post of director general of the Ministry of Information Jordan News Agency for 13 months. Prior to his period at Petra, Mr. Mahadeen was Director of the Royal Court Press Office.

### Prince Mohammad condoles Qatarnah family

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad, the personal representative of His Majesty King Hussein, delegated the Amman Police Director to convey his condolences to the Qatarnah family on the death of Muflih Al Qatarnah, father of Balqa Governor Eid Al Qatarnah.

### Cabinet endorses SSC pension raise

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet Tuesday endorsed the recommendation made by the Social Security Corporation (SSC) to increase the minimum pension and the permanent disability allowance from JD 40 to JD 50 and is retroactive from July 1. SSC Director-General Mohammad Saleh Hourani said that about 9,000 pensioners will benefit from this increase, in addition to any pensioner, whose salary is less than JD 50. The increase will be paid by the end of September.

### Senate speaker meets with Australian envoy

AMMAN (Petra) — Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Ahmad Al Lawzi Tuesday reviewed with the Australian ambassador in Amman bilateral relations and convening the International Parliamentary Union (IPU)'s 90th session on Sept. 12.

### Bank grants JD 130m in loans

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cities and Villages Development Bank (CVDB) has granted JD 130 million in loans to finance various projects throughout the country, according to the Bank Director General Khalifah. Addressing a meeting of the Amman Rotary Club members, Dr. Khalifah

said that since its establishment, the bank has contributed to the economic development of the country. He pointed out that 80 to 90 per cent of the urban and rural roads were constructed through loans to local contractors. He added that the average annual loans granted by the bank range between JD 7 million and 8 million. Referring to the bank finances, Dr. Khalifah said the sources of the finances are internal and external, through loans from international financial institutions.

### Human rights group to meet today

AMMAN (Petra) — The Arab Centre for Studies on Freedom, Democracy and Human Rights will meet today (Wednesday) to discuss a draft proposal prepared by a mini committee.

### Workshop on income-generating project opens

AMMAN (Petra) — A workshop designed to encourage women to create income-generating projects was opened at the Nuzha Community Centre which is run by the Queen Alia Jordan Social Welfare Fund (QAF). The three-day workshop, organised in cooperation with voluntary organisations is being attended by 30 women representing various unions in the rural and urban regions of Jordan as well as representatives of QAF's Community Centres. The workshop's aim is to encourage women to increase their families' income as well as improve the national socio-economic development process in Jordan, said a QAF statement. The statement noted that the workshop was organised in response to increasing requests by women unions for information and training on launching and managing income-generating projects.

### Investment, government policy are topics of seminar

AMMAN (J.T.) — A seminar entitled the Role of Jordan's Financial Policies in Encouraging Investments in the Country organised by the Jordanian Businessmen's Association (JBA) will be held Sept. 9 at the Amman Marriott Hotel. A statement Tuesday said that Minister of Finance Sami Gammo will address the seminar and outline the government's financial policy towards investments. The 300 JBA members who will attend the seminar represent the commercial, industrial, agricultural, banking, contractor, transport, tourism and insurance sectors, according to JBA statement. Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali was the guest of honour at the last JBA seminar held earlier in August which was attended by 500 JBA members. The Prime Minister outlined the government's economic policies and its drive to stimulate the private sector to contribute more to the country's socio-economic development.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

### EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Art exhibition by Iraqi artist Shaker Al Shadi at Alia Art Gallery.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by 25 Jordanian artists at the Housing Bank Complex exhibition hall.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Jordanian artist Bishara Najjar at Eshbela Art Gallery, Amman Shopping Centre. The paintings depict Jordanian-Palestinian heritage, Jordanian antiquities, Arab Jerusalem, rural life and natural scenery.
- ★ New art gallery, "Darat Al Funnun," of the Abdul Majed Shomman Foundation. Programme includes the permanent exhibition and the "Chair" exhibition in Jabal Leiwedeh.
- ★ Exhibition entitled "Reflections and Colours" by artist Zaid Abbas Mahdi at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition by Syrian artist Nadhir Issa'li at Beladna Art Gallery.

### SHOWS

- ★ "The Eternal Torch," a variety of Chreassian dances performed by Al-Jeel Al-Jadeed Club at the club's premises in the Seventh Circle.

### FILM

- ★ Film entitled "Room With a View" at the British Council at 7:00 p.m.

## Gulf Air opens 3 new routes

Gulf Air Regional Director Mohammad Abdul Rahman Zainal has announced the opening of three new routes to Jakarta, Zangibar and Casablanca in a drive by Gulf Air to expand and develop its network and serve its passengers.

Mr. Zainal also said that Gulf Air will continue to operate daily flights to the Gulf aboard modern Airbus A-320 aircraft.



## The National Music Conservatory / Noor Al Hussein Foundation

is now accepting students aged 3 years and above who wish to study.

### Musical Instruments

Individual lessons, group lessons, and supplementary courses for beginners from (2:15) hours / to (6) hours weekly for advanced students.

### Ballet

Courses supervised and trained by Mrs. Inam Abdul Karim.

### Choir

Directed by Mrs. Samia Ghanoum.

### Electric Guitar

The Conservatory is commencing a 3 year program with lessons in pop, rock, and jazz music, as well as supplementary courses in theory and solfege.

The Conservatory begins lessons on Saturday, 4/9/1993.

For further information please call :  
The National Music Conservatory/Noor Al Hussein Foundation  
Jabal Amman, Atiyat Building. Behind the Embassy of Kuwait.  
Tel. 687620 - Fax. 687621



## Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation.  
Established 1975  
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Chairman of the Board of Directors:

MAHMOUD AL KAYED

Director General:

MOHAMMAD AMAD

Editor-in-Chief:

GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:

Jordan Press Foundation,

University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171/6, 670141-4

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Facsimile: 661242

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.  
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

## Securing plus before the act

ONE PARTICULARLY significant feature of the Israeli-PLO agreement that is about to be signed in Washington is the article that talks about the return of tens of thousands of Palestinians who were "displaced" by the 1967 Arab-Israeli war. There are some 57,000 such Palestinians whose future will be determined by that accord.

From a strictly international law point of view, the repatriation of all Palestinians who were driven away from their homes whether in 1967 or in the period that preceded it should be allowed a safe return. The 1949 Geneva Convention relative to occupied territories makes this point crystal clear.

Over and above the Palestinian exodus of 1967, there are hundreds of thousands of Palestinians who were forced to leave their country during the 1947-48 armed conflicts between Israel and the Arab side. The rights of all these Palestinian refugees to go back to their homeland must remain an integral feature of any Israeli-Palestinian settlement.

In order to make this both feasible and practicable, the economy of liberated Palestinian territories needs speedy and effective financial transfusions. Otherwise, not only would the Palestinian expellees or refugees opt to stay where they are now, mainly in Jordan, but other Palestinians living in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank may be tempted to cross into Jordan in search of employment or business opportunities and end up taxing even further the limited resources of the country.

This dimension of the problem requires tripartite negotiations encompassing Jordan, Israel and the Palestinian side. The 11th round of bilateral peace talks currently in session in Washington must target this aspect head on instead of leaving it to the multilateral talks.

The actual implementation of the Gaza-Jericho first accord would, as stipulated require months. The time factor involved can and should be invested in the search for solutions to the economic dimension of the peace equation. There is already talk about direct European or U.S. investment in several macro-economic projects in "Palestinian territories," and judging by their reported size, there is obviously a keen international interest to prop up the devastated Palestinian economy. On their own neither Gaza Strip nor the entire West Bank, East Jerusalem included, might be viable economically. That is why every effort should be exerted to help the budding Palestinian economy survive the test. This is where perhaps the role of Jordan will become most evident.

The Kingdom is an indispensable party to any solution between the Palestinians and Israel. Egypt is effectively separated from even the Gaza Strip by the Sinai desert, a formidable arid territory that impedes close contact. Syria is likewise geographically isolated from "Palestine" and there is therefore no vision for any direct Palestinian-Syrian trade or commerce. This leaves Jordan as the closest and most appropriate partner of a future Palestinian state. In order for the Jordanians and the Palestinians to perform their mutually enforcing and complementary roles, there must be effective and continuous coordination between them, based on confidence and unity of purpose. Such coordination cannot wait until after the Palestinians and Israelis have worked out things between them. Jordan has to be in the picture every step of the way. Its active engagement in the process, as it unfolds everyday, can only be a big plus in its eventual success.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

IN REFERENCE to the Israeli-Palestinian agreement on the "Gaza-Jericho first" option, Al Ra'i Arabic daily said that the Israelis, through deceitful means, were successful in breaching the United Arab ranks and destroying their united stand at the peace negotiations. The bilateral deal was another hand blow not only to inter-Arab relations and solidarity, but also to the rights of the Arabs in the occupied Arab lands since the agreement does not provide for a comprehensive settlement for the Arab-Israeli conflict, said the daily. Whether we like it or not, the big error and the grave blunder has occurred and it is regrettable to say that one Arab party to the peace talks with Israel has chosen to go a separate path, away from the Arab consensus, paving the ground for further disarray in Arab ranks, continued the paper. It said that this blunder is bound to cause catastrophic consequences, detrimental to the Arab cause and harmful to national interests. The Arabs have been announcing time and again that they were united in their stand and that unless progress has been achieved on all tracks no settlement can be achieved between the Arabs and the Israelis; but the new deal has destroyed this rhythm and left the Arab parties in disarray, the paper added.

AL DUSTOUR daily said that Jordan has always supported the Palestinian in their struggle to attain freedom and regain the usurped Arab lands, and this time, and in view of the Israeli-Palestinian deal, Jordan can only voice its support to the free Palestinian will and can only back PLO decisions. The paper said the coming 11th round of talks is bound to disclose details of the new deal between Israel and Palestine and the agreement is a very important move although opposed by many sides. It is clear now that what is being done in secret Israeli-Palestinian talks is far greater than the 22 months of open negotiations in Washington, the paper added.

## Declaration of principles on interim self-government arrangements

Following is the Aug. 19, 1993, full, official text of the draft declaration of principles on Palestinian interim self-government arrangements in the occupied territories. The historic document, agreed between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation, is expected to be signed at the 11th round of Middle East peace talks which opened yesterday in Washington for two weeks. Agence France-Presse obtained the text via the Yediot Aharanot newspaper.

The government of the State of Israel and the Palestinian team (in the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to the Middle East peace conference) ("the Palestinian-Delegation"), representing the Palestinian people, agree that it is time to put an end to decades of confrontation and conflict, recognise their mutual legitimate and political rights, and strive to live in peaceful co-existence, and mutual dignity and security and achieve a just, lasting and comprehensive peace settlement and historic reconciliation through the agreed political process. Accordingly, the two sides agree to the following principles:

### Article I: Aim of the negotiations

The aim of the Israeli-Palestinian negotiations within the current Middle East peace process is, among other things, to establish a Palestinian interim self-government authority, the elected council, ("the Council") for the Palestinian people in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, for a transitional period not exceeding five years, leading to a permanent settlement based on Security Council Resolution 242 and 338.

It is understood the interim arrangements are an integral part of the whole peace process and that the negotiations on the permanent status will lead to the implementation of security council Resolution 242 and 338.

### Article II: Framework for the interim period

The agreed framework for the interim period is set forth in this declaration of principles.

### Article III: Elections

1. In order that the Palestinian people in the West Bank and Gaza Strip may govern themselves according to democratic principles, direct, free and general political elections will be held for the Council, under agreed supervision and under international observation, while the Palestinian police will ensure public order.

2. An agreement will be concluded on the exact mode and conditions of the elections in accordance with the protocol attached as Annex I, with the goal of holding elections not later than nine months after the entry into force of this declaration of principles.

3. These elections will constitute a significant interim preparatory step towards the realisation of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people and their just requirements.

### Article IV: Jurisdiction

Jurisdiction of the Council will cover West Bank and the Gaza Strip territory, except for issues that will be negotiated in the permanent status negotiations. The two sides view the West Bank and Gaza Strip as a single territorial unit whose integrity will be preserved during the interim period.

### Article V: Transitional period and permanent status negotiations

1. The five-year transitional period will begin upon the withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and Jericho area.

2. Permanent status negotiations will commence as soon as possible, but not later than the beginning of the third year of the interim period, between the government of Israel and the Palestinian people representatives.

3. It is understood that these negotiations shall cover remaining issues, including: Jerusalem, refugees, settlements, security arrangements, borders, relations and cooperation with other neighbours, and other issues of common interest.

4. The two parties agree that the outcome of the permanent status negotiations should not be prejudiced or preempted by agreements reached for the interim period.

### Article VI: Preparatory transfer of powers and responsibilities

1. Upon the entry into force of this declaration of principles and the withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and the Jericho area, a transfer of authority from the Israeli military government and its civil administration to the authorised Palestinians for this task, as detailed herein, will commence. This transfer of authority will be of preparatory nature until the inauguration of the Council.

2. Immediately after the entry into force of this declaration of principles and the withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and Jericho area, with the view to promoting economic development in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, authority will be transferred to the Palestinians on the following spheres: education and culture, health, social welfare, direct taxation, and tourism. The Palestinian side will commence in building the Palestinian police force, as agreed upon. Pending the inauguration of the Council, the two parties may negotiate the transfer of additional powers and responsibilities, as agreed upon.

### Article VII:

1. The Israeli and Palestinian delegations will negotiate an agreement on the interim period ("the interim agreement").

2. The interim agreement shall specify, among other things, the structure of the Council, the number of its members, and the transfer of powers and responsibilities from the Israeli military government and its civil administration to the Council. The interim agreement shall also specify the Council's executive authority, legislative authority in accordance with Article IX below, and the independent Palestinian judicial organs.

3. The interim agreement shall include arrangements, to be implemented upon the inauguration of the Council, for the assumption by the Council of all the powers and responsibilities transferred previously in accordance with Article VI above.

4. In order to enable the Council to promote economic growth, upon its inauguration, the Council will establish, among other things, a Palestinian development authority, a Gaza sea port authority, a Palestinian development bank, a Palestinian export promotion board, a Palestinian environmental authority, a Palestinian land authority and a Palestinian water administration authority, and any other authorities agreed upon, in accordance with the interim agreement that will specify their powers and responsibilities.

5. After the inauguration of the Council, the civil administration will be dissolved, and the Israeli military government will be withdrawn.

### Article VIII: Public order and security

In order to guarantee public order and internal security for the Palestinians of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, the Council will establish a strong police force, while Israel will continue to carry the responsibility for defending against external threats, as well as the responsibility for overall security of Israel for the purpose of safeguarding their internal security and public order.

### Article IX: Laws and military orders

1. The Council will be empowered to legislate, in accordance with the interim agreement, within all authorities transferred to it.

2. Both parties will review jointly laws and military orders presently in force in remaining spheres.

### Article X: Joint Israel-Palestinian Liaison Committee

In order to provide for a smooth implementation of this declaration of principles and any subsequent agreements pertaining to the interim period, upon the entry into force of this declaration of principles, a joint Israel-Palestinian liaison committee will be established in order to deal with issues requiring coordination, other issues of common interest, and disputes.

### Article XI: Israeli-Palestinian cooperation in economic fields

Recognising the mutual benefit of cooperation in promoting the development of the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and Israel, upon the entry into force of this declaration of principles, an Israeli-Palestinian economic cooperation committee will be established in order to develop and implement in a cooperative manner the

programmes identified in the protocols attached as Annex III and Annex IV.

Article XII: Liaison and cooperation with Jordan and Egypt.  
The two parties will invite the government of Jordan and Egypt, to participate in establishing further liaison and cooperation arrangements between the government of Israel and the Palestinian representatives, on one hand, and the governments of Jordan and Egypt, on the other hand, to promote cooperation between them. These arrangements will include the constitution of a continuing committee that will decide by agreement on the modalities of admission of persons displaced from the West Bank and Gaza Strip in 1967, together with necessary measures to prevent disruption and disorder, other matters of common concern will be dealt with by this committee.

### Article XIII: Redeployment of Israeli forces

1. After the entry into force of this declaration of principles, and not later than the eve of elections for the Council, a redeployment of Israeli military forces in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip will take place, in addition to the withdrawal of Israeli forces carried out in accordance with Article XIV.

2. In redeploying its military forces, Israel will be guided by the principles that its military forces should be redeployed outside populated areas.

3. Further redeployments to specified locations will be gradually implemented commensurate with the assumption of responsibility for public order and internal security by the Palestinian police force pursuant to Article VIII above.

### Article XIV: Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and Jericho area

Israel will withdraw from the Gaza Strip and Jericho areas, as detailed in the protocol attached as Annex II.

### Article XV: Resolution of disputes

1. Disputes arising out of the application or interpretation of this declaration of principles, or any subsequent agreements pertaining to the interim period, shall be resolved by negotiations through the joint liaison committee to be established pursuant to Article X above.

2. Disputes which cannot be settled by negotiations may be resolved by a mechanism of conciliation to be agreed upon by the parties.

3. The parties may agree to submit to arbitration disputes relating to the interim period, which cannot be settled through conciliation. To this end, upon the agreement of both parties, the parties will establish an arbitration committee.

### Article XVI: Israeli-Palestinian cooperation concerning regional programmes

Both Parties view the multilateral working groups as an appropriate instrument for promoting a "Marshall plan", the regional programmes and other programmes, including special programmes for the West Bank and Gaza Strip, as indicated in the protocol attached as Annex IV.

### Article XVII: Miscellaneous provisions

1. This declaration of principles will enter into force one month after its signing.

2. All protocols annexed to this declaration of principles and agreed minutes pertaining thereto shall be regarded as an integral part hereof.

Done at Washington D.C., this... day of... 1993  
for the government of Israel for the Palestinians

Witnessed by:

The United States of America The Russian Federation

M. KAHIL



## Don't blindly follow the U.N. lead

By Robert C. Byrd

WASHINGTON — The news that the Clinton administration is considering an expanded role in United Nations peacekeeping operations is cause for concern.

The plan would allow U.S. soldiers to serve under foreign commanders on a regular basis. Before adopting any directive embracing this policy, the administration should allow Congress to debate it thoroughly.

If the plan is carried out, we Americans would face more than the dubious prospect of sending U.S. troops into battle under foreign command. We might also become militarily involved in operations that the American people do not properly understand or support.

Unless there is a national consensus in favour of U.S. involvement, any such military endeavours could be disastrous. U.N. intervention in Somalia is a case in point.

The operation was initially commendable. Its goal was to see that humanitarian aid was delivered to needy Somalis, and American troops performed

admirably. But now, with the humanitarian mission successfully completed, the U.N. is trying to rebuild the nation's political structure. This risky experiment could include thousands of U.S. troops.

The deaths of four American soldiers in Mogadishu and the overt hostility of Somalis towards U.N. troops show that the operation is crumbling. It is not worth American lives lost and injuries sustained.

Congress has never approved, or even considered, U.N. participation in forcing a political reconciliation in Somalia. And there is certainly not a consensus among Americans that such an effort is worth any price in our soldiers' blood.

Without a consensus, the likely result of such an operation could be a cut-and-run failure similar to the Beirut disaster from 1982 to 1984. Lacking congressional and popular support, U.S. combat forces in Somalia should be removed.

Dedication to U.N. Security

Council resolutions and peacekeeping missions should not be used by any administration to escape the hard job of consensus-building in Washington.

Despite a Security Council resolution authorising member nations to do battle against the marauding Iraqi army in Kuwait in 1990, the Bush administration sensibly sought congressional approval before committing U.S. forces.

The humanitarian mission in Somalia has now been eclipsed by a gang war in which the United States is taking sides under the U.N. umbrella. In October, the United Nations' initial six-month mandate there expires. If the mission is extended, additional money will be required.

The United States is expected to pay about 30 per cent of the U.N. peacekeeping bill. The U.N. interventions in Somalia and Bosnia are far more expensive than more traditional peacekeeping and humanitarian relief operations.

Congress is already being asked to provide billions of dol-

lars to support the mushrooming ambitions of the United Nations in peacekeeping operations around the world.

The administration will have a tough sell in gaining support for more money. Where will these funds come from? We certainly should not cut spending on domestic needs to pay for foreign adventures.

Yet the White House has requested almost \$1 billion for U.N. obligations in fiscal 1994. By setting aside this sum, the administration could avoid having to go to Congress to get approval for every peacekeeping endeavour in which it wants to get involved.

Congress's ability to support or deny financing is critical to ensuring its voice in policymaking. Until a clear consensus is reached regarding the U.S. role in all peacekeeping matters, Congress should not hand off its constitutional responsibility.

The writer, a Democrat from West Virginia, is chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee. This article is reprinted from the New York Times.

## Land prices double in two days

By Karin Laub  
The Associated Press

JERICHO, Occupied West Bank — Land prices in this sleepy oasis doubled in the two days since word came that Israel and the PLO are close to formal agreement to start Palestinian self-rule here.

But the boom town atmosphere is mixed with anxiety that the autonomy experiment might fall because of inighting or PLO mismanagement.

"I hope the PLO doesn't mess this up. This is the last chance for them and for us," land dealer Arafat Ab Raoushe, 27, said Monday.

The most likely threat to Palestinian autonomy would come from the Muslim fundamentalist group Hamas, which has rejected the plan as a sellout and vowed to fight it.

But in Jericho, a farm town of some 15,000 people in the Jordan Valley, Hamas has little influence, and PLO Chief Yasser Arafat's mainstream Fatah faction remains dominant.

Mr. Arafat apparently also selected Jericho as his foothold in the West Bank as a "sure thing" where he would face little political opposition.

Israel also finds Jericho appealing because there are only three Jewish settlements nearby. Friction is expected to be minimal because, unlike many of the 120,000 settlers elsewhere in the occupied lands, the Israelis living near here are neither religious nor political hardliners.

Jamal Safi, a top Fatah activist in Jericho, said Palestinian peace negotiators told him the changeover would be quick. "We were told we could already be in charge here by the end of the year," said Mr. Safi, 31.

Mr. Safi said Mr. Arafat would move to Jericho. He said five houses were being renovated for the PLO chief who is known for moving frequently for fear of assassination.

The "winter palace," a dilapidated villa on the main road Park Lane would likely house the offices of the autonomous council in the first stage.

The full understanding between Israel and the PLO that would also involve the occupied Gaza Strip has not yet been published, and on Monday, Jericho's main square was abuzz with

rumours. "I hear there won't be taxes for the first three years," toy shop owner Emad Salem told Mr. Arafat's supporters.

"If it's true, I'll buy you dinner," offered the land dealer.

Merchants in the market said they believed they would prosper under autonomy, citing the expected investment of tens of millions of dollars by diaspora Palestinians, the Europeans, Americans and Arab states.

Jericho was a flourishing resort town before the 1987 start of the Palestinian uprising, drawing both Israelis and West Bank residents who filled the garden restaurants along the main road and bought citrus fruit and souvenirs.

Shopkeepers are confident the good times are coming back. Over the past few months, several have renovated rundown shops along the main square and replaced dusty merchandise with the latest European imports.

Mr. Abu Raoushe said land prices have doubled over the past two days, from about \$10,000 per acre to \$20,000.

Prospective buyers called him in the middle of the night while others knocked on his door carrying bags of cash since word came Sunday on the Israel-PLO deal.

"They were ready to put their money down immediately," said Mr. Abu Raoushe, adding that no Jericho residents were ready to sell because they expected further increases.

Ahmad Barham, 39, who cooperates openly with Israeli military authorities, said he would move out if Mr. Arafat moved in. One of Mr. Arafat's possible future homes is a two-story villa across the street from Mr. Barham.

"I trust those who helped me (the Israelis) and not those who stole the money of their people and built themselves villas," said Mr. Barham. "Arafat doesn't represent me."

The fact that Mr. Barham was sitting in an unprotected office in downtown Jericho without fear of being attacked is perhaps the strongest indicator of the town's laid-back attitude.

In other West Bank cities, those who cooperate with Israel have been targeted by underground activists who have killed 750 since the Palestinian uprising began in December 1987.



# Illegal immigrants becoming target of violence as resentment grows

By Michael White  
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Grudgingly accepted for decades as a source of cheap labour in the United States, undocumented immigrants have become the targets of a growing and sometimes violent backlash.

While politicians and editorial pages press ever harder for stricter immigration control along the porous Mexican border, violence against immigrants and their advocates appears on the rise.

"We've been averaging several hate crimes cases per month," said Roberto Martinez of the American Friends Service Committee, which documents immigrant abuse. "It's really accelerated to the point we can't even keep track of them anymore."

In a recent New York Times-CBS News poll, 61 per cent of Americans supported a cutback in legally admitted immigrants. The survey also found 68 per cent believed — incorrectly — that most recent immigrants have entered the United States illegally.

The backlash has been strongest in recession-battered California, where many feel the influx is straining already-strapped government services to the breaking point.

Immigration officials estimate 300,000 illegal immigrants enter the United States each year. California absorbs about half of all immigrants, legal and illegal, they say.



You do not have to be in a gang to be shot, says this 14-year-old Mexican

Some of the state's most powerful politicians, including Republican Gov. Pete Wilson and Democratic Sen. Dianne Feinstein, have joined a throng of citizen groups in demanding that the federal government take a tougher stand against undocumented immigration.

Mr. Wilson has gone even further, calling for an end to illegal aliens receiving welfare, health care and education — and,

in the most controversial proposal, a halt to the practice of granting citizenship to their American-born children.

Mr. Wilson says illegal aliens account for about 2 million of his state's 31.5 million residents. Two-thirds of all babies born in Los Angeles public hospitals are the children of illegal immigrants, he says.

He estimates that citizens of other countries are robbing the

state of \$2.3 billion in services each year.

Mr. Martinez and other advocates counter that legal and illegal immigrants alike contribute to the state's well-being by starting businesses and paying taxes, and are less likely to seek government help than home-grown residents.

Critics aren't placated, arguing that the tide of newcomers has crippled state and local governments.

"This is the greatest betrayal of the people in the history of the United States," said Glen Spencer, head of Voices of Citizens Together, a small group of anti-immigration activists.

"The way to save America's butt," he said, "is to stop this hemorrhaging of our social system."

In recent months: — Vandals ransacked the San Francisco offices of the Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights, covering the walls with anti-immigrant obscenities.

— A truckload of white teenagers shouted racial insults and then beat immigrant Alejandro Cuevas as he walked along a street in Escondido, Calif.

— Immigrant activist Irma Munoz, 20, was assaulted twice on successive nights in Davis, Calif. In one of the attacks, her assailants scrawled "illegal" and "wetback" on her arm and leg with a ball-point pen.

— A group of teens attacked undocumented immigrants at the border near San Diego.

For many migrants, such attacks have added an extra element of fear to the task of survival, which already is difficult enough.

"For Mexican immigrants, it has become more dangerous," said Margarito Cruz, a Vista, Calif., farmworker who was stopped and beaten by a local resident who saw him running from border patrol agents in June.

"There are many good people here," he said, "but there are also bad people and you have to be careful."

Ms. Munoz, a legal resident, said she never imagined her activism would make her the target of violence.

"It turned my life upside down," she said. "But if anything good came out of this, it reaffirmed what I knew — standing up for what I believe in and letting people know of the realities of immigrants and dispelling the myths."

In Los Angeles County, attacks on Hispanics and Asians have increased as the recession has worsened, said Eugene Mornell,

executive director of the county's Human Relations Commission.

Reported attacks on Hispanics jumped from 67 in 1991 to 89 in 1992, the most recent years for which statistics are available. Assaults on Asians, another community with large numbers of immigrants, increased more sharply, from 54 to 80.

Many more incidents go unreported because immigrants fear deportation if they complain to police, Mr. Mornell said.

In the political arena, those same factors resulted in a broad-

based campaign for tighter immigration controls. A dozen bills introduced in the California legislature would, among other things, deny some educational and welfare services to undocumented immigrants.

In Washington, Ms. Feinstein announced plans for a bill that would force all who cross the borders with Canada and Mexico to pay a \$1 fee. The proceeds, estimated at about \$450 million per year, would be used to hire additional officers and buy new equipment for the border patrol.



Maybe being rounded up by police, like this suspect illegal alien, is better than becoming the target of growing resentment in a country fed up with immigrants

## Ten years later, Russians unsure how to remember KAL 007

By Larry Ryckman  
The Associated Press

NEVELSK, Russia — The first Russian monument to the 269 people killed on Korean Air Lines Flight 007 was to have been finished by now.

But 10 years after the plane strayed into Soviet airspace and a fighter jet shot it down, work has yet to begin.

Old tires, rusting cables and a stack of metal poles litter the memorial site, a roadside lot in this fishing village overlooking mud flats and the sea of Japan, 55 kilometres from the spot where the Boeing 747 slammed into the water.

The failure to memorialise such a tragic cold war event reflects the uncertainty here on remote Sakhalin Island, where many residents are only now starting to question the discredited Soviet version of what happened Sept. 1, 1983.

Was the attack a justified response to western provocation, a panicked overreaction or the final mistake in a tragic series that ended with the destruction of a Jumbo jet packed with passengers about to eat breakfast?

Kim Den Khei, a Sakhalin official who serves as a liaison with the island's ethnic Korean minority, insists the monument be built.

"It's not something only the families of the victims need," he said. "All our future generations need it to prevent such tragedies in the future."

U.S.-Soviet relations were plunged to a new low by the destruction of Flight 007. President Ronald Reagan denounced the Kremlin. The Soviet government said the civilian jetliner was on a spy mission, "used by American special services for their dirty aims."

Over the past year, President

Boris Yeltsin of Russia has released evidence that leaves little serious doubt about what happened high above Russia's Far East. Some of it is from the flight data recorders, or "black boxes," which the Soviet government had said were never recovered.

After the Jumbo jet left Anchorage, Alaska, for Seoul, South Korea, it veered hundreds of kilometres off course over the Bering Sea.

After straying for more than two hours over sensitive military bases on the Kamchatka Peninsula and Sea of Okhotsk, tracked by Soviet fighters, the plane flew over Sakhalin, a verdant island turned fortress. Authorities below debated what to do.

Finally, the order came and a Soviet officer shouted, "get Osipovich to fire, and soon," cursing that the intruder was approaching international waters near Japan.

Pilot Gennady Osipovich fired two air-to-air missiles from his SU-15 fighter and sent Flight 007 crashing into the sea.

Inside the Korean airliner, the cockpit crew had been laughing and sharing cigarettes when an alarm went off and the plane rapidly lost altitude, according to recently released transcripts of conversations on the data recorder.

"Get up!" one pilot shouted to another as they struggled with the controls.

"I can't," came the reply. Started passengers, told only minutes before to prepare for breakfast, heard the announcement: "Urgent cabin descent. Fasten seat belts. Put on oxygen masks."

Mr. Osipovich radioed to his controllers: "The target is destroyed."

He returned to base a hero. Soon afterward, when authorities learned the identity of the myste-

rious intruder, he became simply a man who had followed orders. Even now, Mr. Osipovich insists the Boeing was a ghost vessel on a spy mission and carried no passengers.

Those who know the retired air force colonel say the experience ruined his life.

"He killed a lot of people. Their ghosts are in his kitchen and in his garden, and he's trying to find a way to live with it," said Andrei Illesh, an editor of the newspaper Izvestia who wrote a book on the disaster.

Many Sakhalin Islanders share Mr. Osipovich's view of the flight's purpose, noting the apparent failure to find human remains.

"I don't believe there were any passengers aboard," said Ivan Biriukh, captain of the fishing trawler Uvarovsk, the first vessel to reach the crash site. Mr. Biriukh said his crew found wreckage and personal belongings from the water, but no bodies.

"My first impression was that they just took some things from a store and put them in the water," Mr. Biriukh told the Associated Press. "Things were very new. They still had labels in them."

Experts believe the jet hit the water with such force that it would be difficult to find any bodies intact, and that crabs and other sea life ate most of the remains.

Some people think Soviet searchers did retrieve bodies and secretly buried them in a mass grave on Sakhalin, then a closed military region. In early September, Russia will let victims' families excavate a remote site south of Nevelsk in hopes of clearing up the mystery.

Most of the dead were South Koreans and Japanese, but 61 Americans were aboard, including Rep. Larry McDonald of Georgia.

Aided by the newly released material, the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) in June blamed the KAL crew for letting the plane stray into Soviet airspace. It criticised Soviet authorities for shooting the jet down without attempting to contact the crew.

The ICAO report concluded that Soviet authorities mistook the jetliner for a U.S. spy plane that had been in the region earlier and ordered the aircraft destroyed despite "some doubt about its identity." It also suggested the plane's crew misused the navigation system and failed to detect the error while on automatic pilot.

"That's part of the tragedy of this: They never knew they were off course, they never knew there was a fighter outside, they didn't even know they had been shot down," said James Oberg, an American author and aerospace expert.

"There's no indication from the voice tapes that they ever had a clue that they'd been hit by a missile."

For Mr. Osipovich, Mr. Biriukh and others on Sakhalin, the doubts remain. Some have reluctantly accepted the western version of events. For others, Flight 007 has simply slipped into history, along with the Soviet Union.

"Ten years have passed since then, and I don't feel like judging the past," said Yevgeny Krasnovorov, governor of the island. Officials said they planned to erect a temporary marker for the Sept. 1 anniversary and would build the memorial later.

The permanent memorial's designer doubts it will be built.

"From my personal experience, I know that if they make something 'temporary' it will last forever," said Khan San Tzun, a local architect.

## 300-year drought doomed world's first empire

By Boyce Rensberger

WASHINGTON — The long mysterious collapse in 2200 B.C. of the Akkadian empire, the first imperial regime the world had ever known, appears to have been brought on by the abrupt onset of a severe drought that lasted 300 years.

The archaeologists and geologists who made this claim in the Aug. 20 issue of the journal Science say that they have solid evidence of such a climatic shift in the Akkadian heartland of Mesopotamia and that it followed a volcanic eruption that blanketed the region with a thin layer of ash.

"There has been a lot of speculation about a drought wreaking havoc throughout the ancient world around that time, but not in Mesopotamia — we had a gap in the data there — and there was no hard evidence from anywhere," said Harvey Weiss, a Yale University archaeologist who led the American-French expedition that turned up the new findings. "Now we've got direct evidence, no inferences."

The scientists found their clues by digging in the ruins of an

ancient city between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers in what is now Syria.

Marie-Agnes Courty, a French geologist working with Mr. Weiss, found the evidence that explains the empire's collapse. Miss Courty, who is with the Centre National de Recherche Scientifique in Paris, used a microscope to examine sediment lying on house roofs of the time and found a thick layer of volcanic ash. In the surrounding countryside, Miss Courty found a deep layer of wind-blown sand lying over the ash layer, measuring up to three feet thick in some places.

"That," Mr. Weiss said, "tells you the climate went from good to rotten in a very short time — in the tens of years, I'd say."

At the time the ash fell and the sandy layers formed at Tell Lisan, life in the city stopped. For the next 300 years there was no further occupation of the site. Many other Mesopotamian cities emptied out at the same time. Many of the people, presumably, headed south, towards Sumerian cities whose irrigated fields could still yield crops — Washington Post.

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**PROCUREMENT NOTICE JORDAN ELECTRICITY AUTHORITY AQABA THERMAL POWER STATION-STAGE II PROJECT TURBINE ISLAND CONTRACT (TENDER NO. 46/93)**  
The Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) announces the turbine island tender documents (Tender No. 46/93) for Aqaba Thermal Power Station-stage II extension project, are available for purchase as of Aug. 29, 1993.  
The tender consists of the design, supply, delivery, erection, testing and commissioning of two (2) steam turbine units each 130 MW with all auxiliaries for the above project which is an extension to the existing Aqaba Thermal Power Station that consists of two (2) x 130 MW oil fired power generating units.  
The project will be divided into four major contract packages, the boiler island, the turbine island, the civil works and the fuel oil tanks island.  
The bidders will be allowed to bid for one tender package, any combination thereof, or a single turnkey contract. It is expected that Arab and international funding agencies will participate in financing the project. Procurement will be subject to the terms and conditions of the respective lending agencies.  
Sealed tenders shall be submitted to the secretary of the Tendering Committee before 10:00 a.m. Amman time, Jan. 3, 1994, at the JEA office in Amman.  
Tender documents are available from the address given below for a non-refundable fee of \$3,000 payable to JEA for each set consisting of two copies of the tender documents.  
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**PROCUREMENT NOTICE JORDAN ELECTRICITY AUTHORITY AQABA THERMAL POWER STATION-STAGE II PROJECT BOILER ISLAND CONTRACT (TENDER NO. 47/93)**  
The Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) announces the boiler island tender documents (Tender No. 47/93) for Aqaba Thermal Power Station-stage II extension project, are available for purchase as of Aug. 31, 1993.  
The tender consists of the design, supply, delivery, erection, testing and commissioning of two (2) boiler units, each for 130 MW power capacity with all auxiliaries for the above project which is an extension to the existing Aqaba Thermal Power Station that consists of two (2) x 130 MW oil fired power generating units.  
The project will be divided into four major contract packages, the boiler island, the turbine island, the civil works and the fuel oil tanks island.  
The bidders will be allowed to bid for one tender package, any combination thereof, or a single turnkey contract. It is expected that Arab and international funding agencies will participate in financing the project. Procurement will be subject to the terms and conditions of the respective lending agencies.  
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## IMF modestly cuts industrial world growth forecast

WASHINGTON (R) — The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has modestly lowered its forecast for economic growth in the industrial world for 1993 and 1994, monetary sources said Monday.

The new forecast — which will be published late next month — reflects a milder-than-expected expansion in the United States, a deeper-than-anticipated recession in Europe and a Japanese recovery that has been slow to develop.

"Things are being revised down a little bit," one source said.

Monetary sources declined to reveal the details of the new forecast, which is still being finalized by fund staff.

In April, the fund predicted industrial countries would register growth of 1.7 per cent this year and 2.9 per cent next. It forecast Japan would grow 1.3 per cent this year and 3.5 per cent next. European Community growth was forecast at 0.1 per cent this year and 2.2 per cent next.

The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, whose economic analysis often closely mirrors that of the

IMF, lowered its forecast for industrial country growth in June to 1.2 per cent for 1993 and 2.8 per cent for 1994.

"1994 will be a better year than '93, but it won't be particularly buoyant," one international monetary source said.

Japan and Europe should begin to recover next year, but the upturn is likely to be modest, monetary sources said.

In the United States, economic growth is likely to be held back somewhat in 1994 by the tax increases contained in President Bill Clinton's plan to slash the federal budget deficit.

The IMF forecast in April that the U.S. economy would expand by 3.2 per cent in both 1993 and 1994. But that now looks too optimistic.

The U.S. economy expanded by only 0.9 per cent in the first quarter, and new figures due Wednesday are expected to show it only grew slightly faster than that in the second quarter.

The Clinton administration has signalled that it expects to lower its forecast for U.S. growth to around 2.5 per cent for this year and about three per cent for next. One source said the IMF's new forecast is likely to be in line with that.

## Japan MITI vows to change Byzantine economy system

TOKYO (R) — Japan will reform its Byzantine economic system to better integrate with the rest of the world, the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) said Tuesday.

"Our country will try to change itself so that it can establish an economic structure in harmony with that of the international community," MITI said in a report on trade and industrial policy for 1994/95 starting next April.

Specific measures for change include deregulating public sector industries such as gas, improving unfair business practices, and relaxing government regulations which form barriers to imports, the report said.

Focusing on these measures, the ministry requested on Tuesday 917.4 billion yen (\$8.82 billion) for 1994/95 general account spending, the core of the ministry budget, up 4.2 per cent from a year earlier.

Earlier this month, MITI Minister Hiroshi Kuroki said Japan must slash its huge trade surplus or risk destroying the world economy.

"If Japan's trade surplus continues, it will be one factor leading to the destruction of the world economy," he said.

Tokyo's trade surplus with the world increased in July for the 31st straight month.

On a customs-cleared basis, it jumped to \$11.82 billion from \$9.23 billion in July last year, the finance ministry said.

The politically explosive surplus with the United States climbed to \$4.68 billion from \$3.81 billion.

Meanwhile, a major business group has said that Japan's business practices and regulations are eroding the price benefits Japanese consumers should have gained from the yen's sharp rise.

Japan should open its markets wider, promote competitiveness, ban such unfair practices as price fixing, and allow consumers greater access to corporate information, said a report issued by the Japan Employers' Association.

Theoretically, a \$10 foreign product that cost 1,250 yen in

Japan in February should cost 1,010 yen now because of the yen's surge. This would be expected to help foreign companies boost sales here.

The report said, however, that such gains require proper functioning of the market mechanism.

"But in our country, that is not the case," it added.

Importers often do not pass the savings on to consumers. In addition, prices are inflexible for farm and non-manufacturing services and products because of government regulations to protect Japanese sellers against foreign competition.

The association said prices of such items as rice, beef, utilities, imported cars, international phone calls and taxi rides especially need to be cut.

That can be done through such steps as relaxing inspections by imported cars and food, and easing restrictions on long-distance telephone services, it said.

The report urged companies against depending on the government's regulations and guidance in competing with foreign companies.

It also told consumers they should be wise enough to view brand names as not necessarily signifying prestige and higher quality.

An easing of regulations, including those considered barriers to foreign products, has become a key issue as the yen's rise threatens Japan's economic recovery from a slump.

The major cause of the yen's strength is the huge surplus in what Japan exports to the United States and other countries, compared with what it imports from them.

The higher yen was supposed to help cut the surplus by making Japanese goods more expensive overseas and foreign products cheaper in Japan. But the trade surplus has been growing, partly because the strong yen inflates Japan's export figures in dollar terms while the nation's economic slump has kept it from sharply raising imports.

## Russia pegs oil investment needs at \$65 b

HOUSTON (R) — Russia's prime minister told energy executives Monday that the world's second-largest oil producer will need about \$65 billion by the year 2000 to stem the steep slide in the country's crude production.

Despite Russia's vast promise, many U.S. companies have been reluctant to make major commitments because of a bureaucratic maze and confusing array of tax policies that increase their costs.

But in a sign that cooperation may be growing, Russia struck a key gas transport deal with Houston-based Enron Corp that was announced Monday just before Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin addressed business executives here.

Trying to reassure the U.S. oil industry and repair strained ties, Mr. Chernomyrdin — once a refinery worker himself — said he was seeking another big oil exploration deal by year-end.

Western energy companies have expressed frustration with the pace of change in Russia and the endless red tape. But Mr. Chernomyrdin, aware of the criticism, said Russia was eager to improve the business climate.

"You will see a turn for the better very soon ... the process is underway," he told the Greater Houston Partnership, a local business group of about 500 executives.

Mr. Chernomyrdin declined to discuss details, saying they will be released Thursday in Washington, when he is due to meet with Vice President Al Gore.

Mr. Chernomyrdin said Russia wants to deal mainly with oil companies that can offer expertise in exploration and production operations, as well as refining and marketing — something only the very biggest can do.

He also said companies seeking to do business in Russia must be

willing to take a long-term approach, reinvest in the local economy and feed the domestic market.

"I think the train is leaving the station," energy expert Daniel Yergin said. "Things are going to start happening. There's momentum."

The deal between Enron, a leading U.S. transporter of natural gas, and Russia's major natural gas firm RAO Gazprom calls for the development of new markets for Russian gas in the European power sector.

Enron Chairman Kenneth Lay said the deal will start with an exchange of information about Europe's natural gas and electric power markets and will quickly move toward development of individual projects.

Mr. Chernomyrdin said Russian officials are working to remove barriers that have frustrated western energy companies

trying to complete joint ventures in the country.

As an example, he said he has set a deadline to complete negotiations by year-end for the development of the huge offshore fields near the Sakhalin islands in east Russia.

Mr. Chernomyrdin outlined three areas of specific investment for Russia's oil industry.

He said at least \$12 billion in investment is needed to repair the thousands of idled fields and could return a profit within two to three years.

Another area for investment would be to increase oil and gas production in existing fields, which he said requires about \$10 billion in investment.

Long-term projects that seek to explore new fields are also available with investments of \$5 billion to \$7 billion each, year needed between 1995 and 2000, he said.

## Ukraine premier presents last-gasp reform plan

KIEV (R) — Prime Minister Leonid Kuchma presented a last-gasp program to save Ukraine's economy from collapse Tuesday and called for sweeping powers to end political paralysis and introduce vital reforms.

Mr. Kuchma told deputies an overhaul of the former Soviet republic's crippled political institutions was required pending new elections to replace a parliament he said was unable to adopt necessary measures.

"Parliament is incapable of taking decisions. No action has been taken on 75 laws presented urgently to deputies," he said. A state of emergency will not help, but emergency economic measures are absolutely vital. All eastern Europe has gone through crisis. It is difficult to change a shovel into a computer."

The prime minister presented tough anti-inflation measures to be discussed over the next 10 days, including an abrupt halt to profligate state credit for loss-making industry and agriculture.

Mr. Kuchma's programme was the latest of several elaborated since he took office last October with a mandate to place Ukraine

on the same path to reforms undertaken by Russia nearly a year earlier.

But unlike in Russia, consumers in Kiev still form long queues early each morning for staples like milk and bread.

Kiev shops were jammed Tuesday with anxious shoppers trying to beat price increases set for Sept. 1 and buying scarce supplies for the beginning of the school year. Many are available only with ration coupons.

Mr. Kuchma said only a single structure for decision-making would allow Ukraine find a way to introduce market mechanisms, curb inflation and bring down a vast budget deficit.

The central bank should be brought under the government's control and the conservative Soviet-era parliament should confine its activities to working out a new constitution pending elections in March, he said.

The president would be responsible for legislation and the government for its implementation, including issuing decrees.

Mr. Kuchma last week predicted the imminent downfall of his own government following the

resignation of deputy prime minister Viktor Pynzenyk, chief architect of Ukraine's flailing reforms.

Mr. Pynzenyk said conservatives were blocking attempts at change. Mr. Kuchma predicted that parliament would reject any programme of reforms put to it.

Monthly inflation stands at 40 per cent, the country's interim currency has fallen sharply and the budget deficit widening as government lending and spending soar.

Parliament, viewed with disdain by most Ukrainians, last week threw the country's political future into disarray by failing to take any decision on its key institutions.

Two days of wrangling produced no agreement on whether to hold new elections or proceed with referendums of confidence

in parliament and President Leonid Kravchuk. He and other leaders adopted no clear position on the matter.

Mr. Kuchma, former director of Europe's largest missile factory, said it would take years to create a stable economy and improve living standards.

"There is tragedy ahead, but not catastrophe. We will survive," he said.

He also repeated his conviction that Ukraine needed to proceed with an economic union with Russia to ensure its energy supplies and maintain its tradition trading links.

Creation of such a union, viewed with suspicion by Ukrainian nationalists, is a key issue at the forthcoming summit of Commonwealth on Independent States members.

## BNP to start off France's privatisation drive

PARIS (R) — Banque Nationale de Paris (BNP), which ranks among the world's biggest banks, will kick off the French government's ambitious privatisation drive in the next few weeks, Economy Minister Edmond Alphandery said Tuesday.

He said BNP's active role in the French economy had made it an obvious first candidate. "It's a symbol," he said "It's a very good way to get the privatisation ball rolling."

A total of 21 state-owned firms are due to be privatised under a five-year plan hammered out by the five-month-old centre-right coalition government. Prime Minister Edouard Balladur has said he hopes to raise 40 billion francs (\$6.9 billion) this year alone.

The government last month published a short-list of four firms which are to be the first for sale into private hands. These included, as well as BNP, pharmaceuticals and chemicals firm Rhone-Poulenc, oil company Elf Aquitaine and a small retail bank, Banque Heret.

The exact date of the BNP sell-off has yet to be set. With investors around the globe now piling into equities, the climate looks good.

But just in case, the government has left itself the option of postponing the sale if market conditions are not suitable.

Analysts reckon that the state would raise about 25-30 billion francs (\$4.3 billion to \$5.1 billion) if it were to sell all of its 72.9 per cent direct stake in BNP's capital.

Last week, when the bank released its first-half results, it put its book value at 37 billion francs (\$6.3 billion).

BNP — France's third largest bank with 1,900 branches and a presence in 78 countries — saw its net profit after payments to minorities tumble 61 per cent to \$52 million francs (\$8.9 million) in the first six months of this year.

A jump in provisions for general risks and loans that had gone sour, mainly the result of exposure to troubled small and medium-sized firms, were largely to blame for the profit slide.

With such bad news behind it, analysts say the bank offers investors the prospect of a strong recovery, maybe as early as next year. They estimate that shares in the bank will be sold at a little over 500 French francs (\$94) each.

BNP itself had no comment to take on the news. Its chairman, Michel Peberreau, has kept a low profile since he was appointed shortly after March's parliamentary elections.

Mr. Peberreau won great respect from France's financial community for his management of Credit Commercial de France, a smaller bank that was privatised in 1987.

## Chinese leaders urge more efforts to restore economic order

BEIJING (AFP) — China claimed initial success in a two-month offensive to restore order to its economy, but warned that more needs to be done, state-run media reported Tuesday.

"The current financial situation is still relatively grim," said Vice Premier Zhu Rongji, despite success in areas like stabilising China's currency, increasing bank savings and curbing real estate speculation.

A similar message was sent by President Jiang Zemin in the northeastern city of Dalian last week, the Xinhua News Agency reported.

In a major blow to his efforts,

Mr. Zhu acknowledged in a report to legislators Monday that Beijing failed to recover two-thirds of nearly 220 billion yuan (\$38 billion) in irregular inter-bank loans by an Aug. 15 deadline.

Recalling the loans was a central part of Mr. Zhu's campaign, launched in early July after he took over as central bank governor, to reduce runaway inflation and cool an economy that grew 13.9 per cent between January and June, from a year earlier.

Funds used for speculation in stocks, real estate and foreign currency trading during the development frenzy of the past 18 months are urgently needed to

upgrade China's badly strained infrastructure.

No explanation for the failure was given, but Chinese officials blame strong resistance from increasingly independent-minded provincial governments and unrealistic expectations by Mr. Zhu.

Mr. Jiang alluded to this in his address to northeastern officials, urging greater provincial cooperation. "To achieve our objective, we must unify our thinking and actions to make sure that orders and prohibitions of central authorities are carried out to the letter," he said.

While urging the provincial leaders to seize opportunities for economic development, Mr.

Jiang stressed the need for stability to prevent major losses.

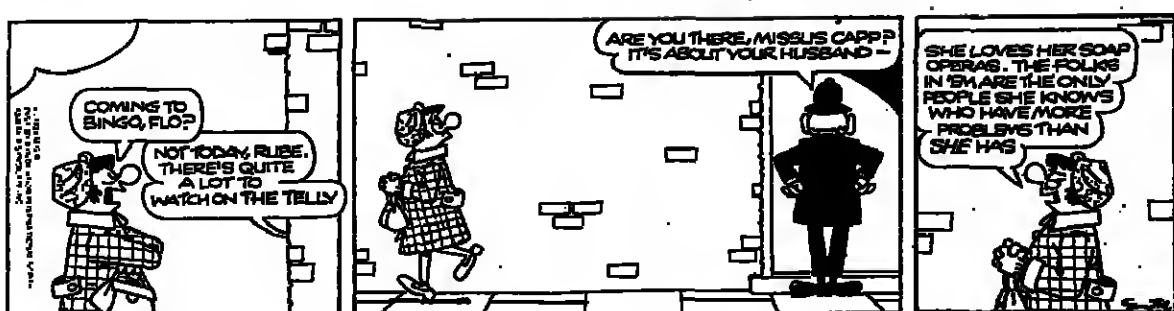
"We must continue to implement these (macro-economic) policies and measures and pay attention to new circumstances and new problems that crop up in our economic work," said Mr. Jiang, also Communist Party general secretary.

Mr. Zhu conceded it would be "very difficult to reach the year's goal of controlling the issuing of paper money" — a failure threatening severe repercussions for efforts to control inflation, now running at an annual rate of more than 30 per cent in some cities.

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Print answer here: \_\_\_\_\_ (Answers Monday)

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Answer: How the potter makes his living—HE "URNS" IT

**THE Daily Crossword** by Dorothy B. Martin

ACROSS  
1 Dog of a Hungarian breed  
5 Flower  
10 Savoir faire  
14 Image  
15 Verminous material  
16 Wings  
17 Word of despair  
18 Browed bread  
19 Volunteer State; abbr.  
20 Reputation  
21 Flaggish dance  
22 FROG  
25 Bestowed  
26 South Dakota's capital  
29 Larva  
32 Forest of —  
33 Apple way to work  
34 Govt. op.  
37 Chauvin work (with "The")  
41 Afternoon social  
42 Olden times  
43 Unwarlike  
44 Address  
45 Verdict  
46 Metallic sounds  
47 "A Bell for —"  
50 Invent  
51 Public opinion survey  
55 Goody  
59 Opposed  
60 Competitor  
61 Norwegian city  
62 Depots; abbr.  
63 Certain Arab  
64 Orderly  
65 Sassy  
66 Perfidious  
67 Powdered starch  
DOWN  
1 French chausson  
2 Western school letters  
3 Sol  
4 Privately  
5 Colorful  
6 Audibly  
7 "A partridge in a tree"  
8 Siberian city  
9 Ceremony  
10 Indolent skin  
11 Vigilant  
12 Dugout  
13 Canvas shelters  
12 Length units  
14 Depots; abbr.  
15 Caen's river  
16 Agreement  
17 Dies  
18 Farber or Milay  
19 Author  
20 Ingalls Wilder  
21 Land measure  
22 Black, to poets  
23 Veve  
24 Strike with a stick  
25 Inquiries  
26 Grain  
27 Tantal bones  
28 Coverts  
44 Join  
45 Corned  
46 Castles  
47 Dog  
48 Parting name  
49 Church feature  
50 Scottish groups  
52 Col. teacher  
53 Kind of cotton  
54 Elbow  
55 On the  
56 Britny  
57 Perant  
58 Church  
59 Groups (completely)



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# China will not rule out use of force over Taiwan

PEKING (R) — China issued a major policy paper on Taiwan Tuesday, repeating its offer of peaceful unification but threatening again that Peking may use military force if necessary to retake the island.

"Peaceful unification is a set policy of the Chinese government," the cabinet said in its "white paper" on Taiwan.

"However, any sovereign state is entitled to use any means it deems necessary, including military ones, to uphold its sovereignty and territorial integrity."

The white paper came as Peking and Taipei settled into the first round of ground-breaking talks on improving links long fraught by cold war suspicions and bitter memories of China's civil war in the late 1940s.

Peking's communist rulers rejected any prospect of Taiwanese independence.

"The Chinese government is closely following the course of events and will never condone any manoeuvre for 'Taiwan independence,'" it said.

Chinese and Taiwanese negotiators met in Peking to start working out how to handle the explosive growth of economic, family and tourism ties as tensions eased in recent years.

The talks, carefully "unofficial" to circumvent Taipei's standing ban on official contact, represent the latest in a series of high-level meetings unimaginable only five years ago.

The Chinese cabinet's paper, "The Taiwan Question And The Renunciation Of China," is meant as a political framework for Peking's policies.

As with previous Chinese white papers on the questions of human rights and Tibet, diplomatic analysts looking for new Chinese initiatives were likely to be disappointed.

The paper again sets forth Peking's unequivocal claim to sovereignty over Taiwan, which has served as a base for the Nationalist Chinese government since Generalissimo Chiang Kai-Shek led his defeated forces there in 1949.

It accuses the United States government of causing the division and then working to prolong it, most recently in 1992 by agreeing to sell Taiwan 150 advanced F-16 jet fighters.

Under the flag of sovereignty, the Chinese white paper rules out any countries having official diplomatic links with Taipei, rejects Taiwan's hopes to return to the United Nations and insists that all air transport agreements between third countries and Taiwan be submitted for China's approval.

China's strict attitude toward Taiwan's international political status appears to reflect fears among Peking's elderly leaders that time is growing short.

With agreements already in place to retake the British colony of Hong Kong in 1997 and the Portuguese enclave of Macao in 1999, Taiwan is now the only issue standing in the way of the Communists' pledge to unify the whole nation under their rule.

"For various reasons, Taiwan is still separated from the mainland," the paper said.

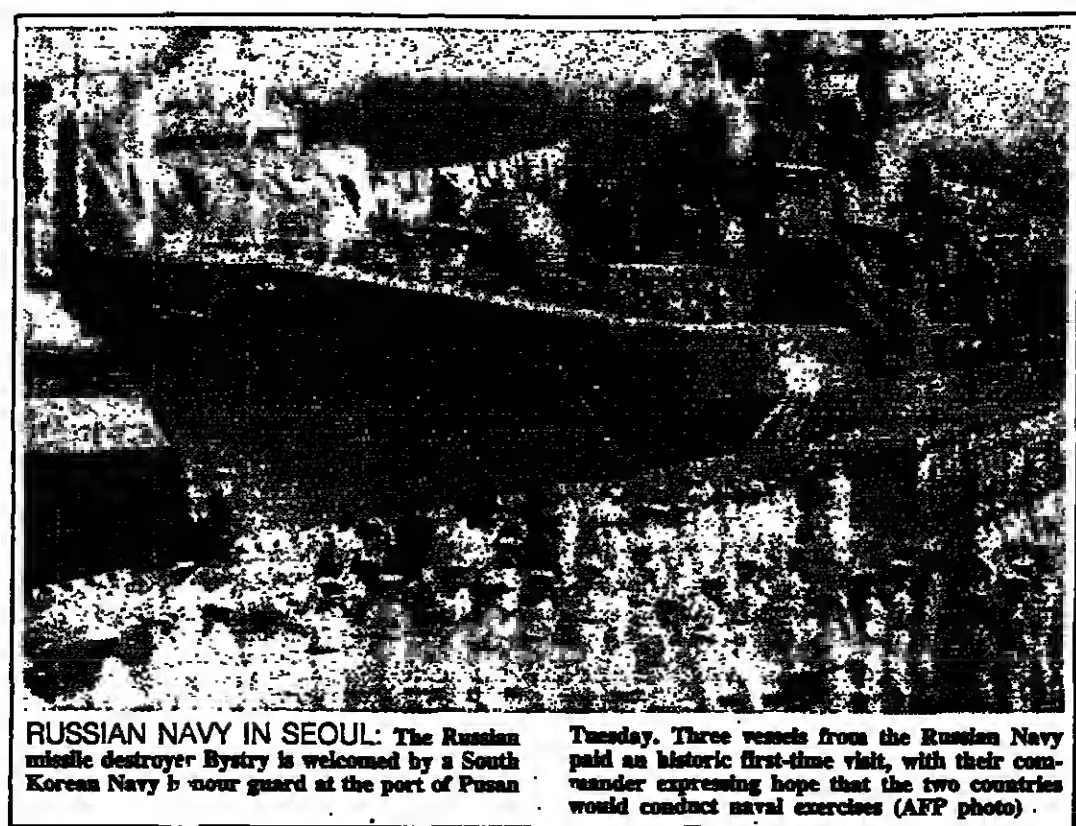
"Unless this state of affairs is brought to an end, the trauma on the Chinese nation will not be healed and the Chinese people's struggle for national reunification and territorial integrity will continue."

The paper restates China's formula for resolving the issue: The "one country, two systems" proposal that already forms the basis for Hong Kong's return to Chinese rule in 1997.

Under this arrangement, Taiwan's Nationalist government would be allowed almost free rein in running the island's internal affairs as long as it bows to Peking on diplomatic issues.

Peking has promised not to station administrative or military personnel on the island, while saying that certain Taiwanese leaders could be appointed to senior positions in the central government.

"It should be affirmed that the desire of Taiwan compatriots to run the affairs of the island as masters of their own house is justified and reasonable," the white paper said.



RUSSIAN NAVY IN SEOUL: The Russian missile destroyer Bystry is welcomed by a South Korean Navy honor guard at the port of Pusan Tuesday. Three vessels from the Russian Navy paid an historic first-time visit, with their commander expressing hope that the two countries would conduct naval exercises (AFP photo).

## Iran holds military exercise at border with Armenia

TEHRAN (AFP) — Some 10,000 Iranian troops held joint manoeuvres with the air force near the Armenian border following warnings that Tehran would not tolerate the Armenian offensive in Azerbaijan, state-run radio said Tuesday.

The exercise, involving the 21st Battalion of the army's elite ground forces as well as the air force, took place in the border area of Marand, 50 kilometres from the autonomous Armenian region of Nakhichevan in Azerbaijan and 70 kilometres (45 miles) from Armenia proper, it said.

The manoeuvre is the first conducted by Iran on its northern border since the 1979 revolution.

Tehran Radio said forces successfully conducted the first phase of the exercise, code-named "Sahand 1" after a mountain range in the region, against the mock enemy and is to begin "Sahand 2" shortly.

The action comes amid increasing signs that Tehran is ready to adopt a tougher stand towards the Armenian offensive in Azerbaijan.

Meanwhile, Armenian separatist forces launched a new offensive Tuesday on the southwestern Azerbaijani regions of Dagestan and Kabardin and were advancing towards Zangilan, further south, the Azerbaijani Defence Ministry said.

The ministry, quoted by the Interfax News Agency, said the separatist Armenian troops Tuesday morning captured all the villages on the right bank of the Akera River, just east of Nakhichevan, and were advancing towards Zangilan, further south, the Azerbaijani Defence Ministry said.

The ministry said that so far 38 villages in the Dagestan area and 18 in the Kabardin region had fallen to the separatists, who are seeking to consolidate their hold on all territory southwest of the disputed Nagorno-Karabakh enclave, as far as the Iranian border.

In Stepanakert, the enclave's main city, Armenian authorities said their troops successfully rebuffed an Azerbaijani counter-offensive in Kubati. They said one Armenian soldier died and four others were injured in the fighting.

They added that an extremist Azerbaijani organisation known as the "Grey Wolves" had joined ranks with Azeri forces in Kubati and that the local Kurdish population living there was being used as human shields.

Scheduled negotiations on the disputed enclave were indefinitely postponed Monday at the request of Azerbaijan, which is also plagued with domestic unrest.

An Azerbaijan spokesman said the request had been made because of Sunday's referendum in the republic which confirmed the ouster of fugitive Azerbaijani President Abulfaz Elchibey and the people's confidence in acting president and former Communist leader Geidar Aliyev.

The United States reaffirmed Monday its support for Mr. Elchibey, suggesting Sunday's referendum may have been flawed.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Gunman kills 7 in Pakistan mosque

ISLAMABAD (R) — At least 34 people have been killed in two days of pre-election violence in Pakistan, including seven shot dead Tuesday while praying in a mosque on the anniversary of the birth of the Prophet Muhammad. An armed man burst into the small mosque in the ancient Rajgarh district of central Lahore and sprayed the congregation with automatic gunfire, killed seven people and injuring 15 as they knelt in prayer, police said.

"If the worshippers had been standing perhaps there would have been more chance of survival," senior police superintendent Tanvir Ahmad said by telephone from Lahore. The gunman entered the mosque as the congregation of about 30 were finishing regular early morning prayers and opened fire with a Kalashnikov assault rifle, a police officer said. The man escaped on a motorcycle driven by an accomplice waiting at the gate, the officer said.

### 21 Rio slum dwellers killed

RIO DE JANEIRO (R) — The survivors of a massacre at a Rio de Janeiro shanty town where 21 people were gunned down Sunday, said they were afraid to leave for fear the killers would return.

"I'm standing here speaking to the cameras but I am scared, I'm scared," a crying man told television reporters Monday. Around 20 hooded gunmen armed with automatic weapons burst into the Vigario Geral shanty town close to midnight Sunday in what appeared to be revenge for the deaths of four police officers the night before, a police official said.

Witnesses said they saw the group of armed men descend shooting from four cars at the plaza where the Rio de Janeiro officers had been killed. "They jumped out of the car shooting wildly in every direction," said a teenager who asked not to be identified and who had watched the scene from a neighbouring house. Men and women who until moments before had been relaxing at nearby bars escaped in panic while the hooded men set fire to cars and shot dead a passer-by, the teenager said. The killers then split up into three groups and raided the shanty town where they seemed to choose their victims at random.

### German asylum hostel set ablaze

COLOGNE, Germany (R) — Fire broke out in a hostel inhabited by around 100 asylum seekers in the western German town of Detmold early Tuesday morning, and police said they were not ruling out arson. A police spokesman said the fire started in a closet under the stairs. The inhabitants were evacuated but later allowed to return. Four were taken to hospital suffering from smoke inhalation. Germany has experienced a wave of racist violence, often carried out by young skinheads or neo-Nazis, since unification in late 1990.

### U.N. considers Haiti security mission

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The U.N. Security Council Monday discussed a proposed 1,000-person-strong mission to Haiti that would help modernise the police and army in the violence-prone nation.

U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, the U.S. ambassador who is the Council this month, announced that the Council would dispatch an advance mission of up to 30 people to prepare for a larger deployment. Earlier Businessman Robert Malval told the heirs of a new Haitian government and immediately appealed for economic aid to help restore democracy to his impoverished homeland. Mr. Malval was installed as Haiti's new prime minister in an emotional ceremony at the Haitian embassy here presided over by exiled President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, who was ousted in a September 1991 coup and is to be restored to power Oct. 30.

### Nigeria ports hit by democracy strike

LAGOS (R) — Nigeria's main seaports were crippled Tuesday by strikes by workers opposed to the country's new unelected interim government and the introduction of a new expensive grade of petrol into the market.

"There is no work at Apapa and Tin Can ports," an official at the headquarters of the Nigerian Ports Authority (NPA) said. She said the few administrative staff who turned up for work at NPA were about to return home. The central trade union body, the Nigeria Labour Congress, and the main oil workers union called the strike to demand a democratic government and the withdrawal of a high priced grade of petrol from the market.

### Seoul: Chun exaggerated dam threat

SEOUL (R) — South Korea's anti-graft investigators accused ex-president Chun Doo Hwan Tuesday of exaggerating the danger of a suspected North Korean plan to build a dam that could unleash flood waters into the South.

The Board of Audit and Inspection (BAI) said in a report Mr. Chun made an improper decision to build a dam on the North Korean border to counter the water threat from the North. Wrapping up a months-long investigation into the dam project, the BAI said Mr. Chun intended to use the issue of national security to "stabilise domestic politics" at a time when pro-democracy calls were threatening his strongarm rule.

"We concluded the decision to build the dam was not properly made... and Chun's administration exaggerated the perceived threat of North Korea's water offensive against the South," a BAI spokesman said. Mr. Chun, who ruled the country for eight years until February 1988, has denied any wrongdoing in the decision to build the peace dam on the Han River, just south of the border with Communist North Korea.

## Angola forces advance into Huambo province

LUANDA (R) — Angolan government forces bolstered by fresh recruits and more arms have advanced deep into Huambo province towards the rebel capital of the same name.

State-run Journal De Angola newspaper reported Tuesday that government troops were now 80 kilometres west of Huambo City, between the towns of Usuma and Longongo.

Fighting was raging elsewhere in the central highlands.

A Reuters photographer in nearby Benguela province reported heavy fighting in recent days around the town of Balombo. The army had opened a new front there in its 250-kilometre push from the Atlantic coast towards the UNITA rebel headquarters.

The newspaper said five UNITA guerrillas died in fighting to recapture the village of Monte Belo last week and 20 more were killed in mop-up operations around Bocoio.

The reports could not be independently confirmed.

Diplomatic sources are sceptical about a claim in state-run media Monday that 2,000 UNITA men were killed in fighting in the area last week.

After months of disarray, the government last month launched a push towards Huambo City to try to recapture the provincial capital seized by UNITA (National Union for the Total Independence of Angola) last March and relieve pressure on besieged Cuito 120 kilometres to the east.

Western diplomats say the government is under pressure to complete the operation before October, when the rains resume.

Government forces are in improved shape following a big recruitment drive and a fresh supply of arms but a speedy recapture of Huambo is far from guaranteed, the diplomats said.

"They may turn the corner. But they haven't turned the corner yet," one said.

The government has recaptured a string of towns from the coast to Ganda, which is halfway towards Huambo City, and is trying to consolidate its positions.

## Clinton briefed on plan for post-cold war defence

WASHINGTON (AP) — Defence Secretary Les Aspin has briefed President Bill Clinton on his plan for a post-cold war military establishment that is smaller and cheaper but keeps the "forward presence" of U.S. forces around the globe.

Mr. Aspin was expected to release the document Wednesday and discuss it in a speech Thursday at Georgetown University, officials said.

The plan is the result of months of internal administration debate on the proper mix of U.S. Armed Forces to meet what Mr. Aspin considers the four main threats to American national security after the demise of the Soviet Union.

Those dangers — the spread of nuclear arms, regional threats such as Iraq or Iran, the failure of democratic reform in the former Soviet Union, and U.S. economic decline — form the basis of Mr. Aspin's reshaping of the American military.

"It is a response to the new world," said a senior Pentagon official familiar with the new plan.

The official discussed it on condition he not be identified.

Many details have been reported but much remains unknown, including the cost. The Washington Post reported this month that Mr. Aspin's proposed restructuring would cost about \$20 billion more than the \$1.2 billion Mr. Clinton has said he wants to spend on defence over the coming five years.

Mr. Aspin referred to his new plan in a speech last week to a convention of the veterans of foreign wars.

"So much has changed that we believe that we had to review our defence requirement from the bottom up," Mr. Aspin said.

"I have long felt that if we merely cut the cold war forces from the top, we'd simply end up with a smaller cold war force, but that's not what we need," he said.

"We need a force that's right for the dangers that we face today and into the future."

Mr. Aspin said his plan was developed by examining all aspects of U.S. national security.

## The new, old truth about JFK

WASHINGTON (AP) — More than 2,000 books have been written about the assassination of John F. Kennedy, most saying he was the victim of some unexplained conspiracy.

A book that has just come out may turn out to be the most controversial. If you believe polls, most people won't believe what it says.

It says there was no conspiracy to kill Kennedy. No Cuban connection. No Soviet intrigue. No CIA-FBI plot and military-industrial plot. No mob plot. No left-wing plot, no right-wing plot. No Lyndon Johnson scheme to seize the presidency.

It says that Kennedy was killed by Lee Harvey Oswald, acting alone. If that sounds familiar, there's a reason. That's been the government line.

The Warren Commission reached the same conclusion, on Sept. 24, 1974, in 296,000 words.

That was before JFK's movie that convinced a whole generation that there was more to it than Oswald.

Lawyer Gerald Posner, 39, the author of Case Closed says he's gone over all the old evidence and found some new evidence — in his own computer analysis of the famous Zapruder film, for example.

But nothing he found does more than support the overall conclusion that the assassination was the crazy act of a crazy man.

About the more than 2,000 books he says have been written about the assassination, Mr. Posner says he didn't realise how vehemently others believe otherwise. He has been getting unfriendly calls from the assassination community. For the rest of his life, he's beginning to realise, he's going to be the object of their scorn.

"I initially doubted that I would be able to convert those who hold on to a conspiracy theory as though it was a religion," he said in an interview. "But I thought that if they read my book with an open mind they would at least put the case of Oswald acting alone back in the discussion."

Now: "I don't think I'll get that hearing. The initial response has been vehement and at times quite nasty. I am a greater foe than their own intra-group squabbles about who killed Kennedy."

He'd been warned, James Phelan once wrote an article disputing one of the conspiracy advocates. He told Mr. Posner, "They won't ever let you alone again. They are still calling me 25 years later."

The American people have been skeptical from the start, and their skepticism has grown.

A Gallup poll a week after the assassination said that only 29 per cent of Americans believed Oswald killed JFK. After the Warren Commission report came out, 56 per cent said they accepted it.

In a 1988 poll, only 13 per cent said Oswald was alone responsible. Three years later, that number fell to 11 per cent.

At the least, Mr. Posner has made accessible the contrary view. When Oliver Stone made JFK, professing a vast government conspiracy had killed the president, there was nothing around to dispute the movie.

But the hardest reason to accept Oswald as the killer is the crime does not square with the puniness of the criminal.

Case Closed: Lee Harvey Oswald And The Assassination Of JFK, is being published this week by Random House.

## Hurricane intensifies; warnings extended in U.S.

MANTEO, North Carolina (R) — Hurricane Emily churned through the gulf stream towards the fragile barrier islands of North Carolina Tuesday and hurricane warnings were extended as far north up the U.S. Atlantic coast as Delaware.

"The steering currents are changing. We expect the hurricane to turn more towards the north and eventually northeast. Where that turn takes place is very, very critical," said Max Mayfield of the National Hurricane Centre in Coral Gables, Florida.

The hurricane centre said Emily was packing maximum sustained winds of 100 mph (160 kph) and some additional strengthening was expected during the next 24 hours.

"Any tropical storm, especially a hurricane, has a great deal of damage potential and history has proven this too vividly," the centre said in a statement urging people not to underestimate the possible dangers.

In an interview with CNN, Mr. Mayfield said hurricane warnings had been extended from Bogue Inlet, just south of North Carolina's Outer Banks Barrier Islands, northward to Cape Henlopen, Delaware, at the mouth of the Delaware Bay.

The first of the hurricane's outer rain bands began brushing the coast from North Carolina's Cape Hatteras northward, the National Weather Service reported.

Winds were expected to reach hurricane strength by the afternoon.

"All coastal residents should stay tuned for the latest advisory on the storm and remain alert," the centre said.

Officials Monday ordered the evacuation of Dare County, which includes Cape Hatteras, and said 70,000 to 75,000 of the 100,000 residents and holidaymakers there had now left.

## Top British clubs chase 5-year-old

MANCHESTER, England (AFP) — Five-year-old football wonderkid Kane Jackson is being chased by 20 British clubs. One side has already offered his father Matthew £10,000 to clinch the boy's signature when he reaches 16, but the 26-year-old tiler turned them down. "We thought hard about it, but he's too young to be tied down and we don't want him manipulated," Matthew explained. Kane, who can only play in friendly matches because he is too young for league football, was spotted by the club at a coaching camp for seven year-olds last year.

## British producer wins world scrabble match

NEW YORK (R) — A British television producer emerged victorious from the 1993 World Scrabble Championship Monday, clinching the title with the word "wet" to score 20 points.

The producer, Mark Nymann, 26, defeated a Canadian rival five games to two in the third annual competition, which began in London in 1991. Competitors from 20 countries took part in the contest, competing for a top prize of \$10,000 at the prestigious Plaza Hotel in Manhattan. Scrabble, which likes to call itself the world's most popular board game, was invented in the 1930s in New York. Mr. Nymann, part of a 14-member team from Britain and Ireland, is a producer on Yorkshire Television. Count-down programme. He lives in Leeds and is the reigning British matchplay Scrabble champion.

Competitors also took part from countries including Australia, Ghana, Israel, Kenya, Japan, Malaysia, Malta, New Zealand, Nigeria, Philippines, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Thailand and the United States.

## Japanese protest vending machines selling used panties

TOKYO (AP) — It was no secret that men with a yen could buy used girls' underwear in seedy Tokyo porn shops, but now consumer demand has become strong enough to draw dirty-laundering vending machines out to the suburbs. Thousands of residents in Tokyo bedroom communities have signed petitions seeking the removal of recently installed machines, officials said Tuesday.

The slang term for the fetishes the machines pander to is "burasera." Buru is the Japanese approximation of bloomers, and "sera" refers to the sailor-style girls' uniforms common in junior high and high schools here. In Japan, pornography featuring girls as young as their early teens is common. Last month, police in Tokyo rounded up and reprimanded 101 students, mostly teenagers, for appearing in pornographic videos. Many of the girls were scouted at a so-called "huru-sera" alley in Tokyo, where they came to sell their used underwear, according to police.

Hayao Obashi, a prefectural (state) official in Chiba, east of Tokyo, said 3,662 signatures had been filed with the government, recently protesting the underwear sales. Vending machines that dispense goods as various as lettuce, cameras, and even clean underwear throughout Japan must be registered but no special license is needed to sell used underwear, as a pornographic product.

## Stowaway cat grounds jet

LONDON (AP) — A stowaway cat made an unwelcome appearance on an Air Zimbabwe flight, climbing through a gap between the hold and the cockpit and jumping onto the first officer's lap. The cat evaded attempts to catch it during the flight and for several hours on the ground at London's Gatwick Airport.

The Daily Telegraph reported. The stowaway tabby was eventually tempted out by a plate of hamburger and promptly put in quarantine. The newspaper said the cat was one of thousands of strays living in the airport in Harene, the capital of Zimbabwe. It said the cat popped up midway through the 10-hour flight to London. "It clambered out from the rudder pedal slot, between the legs of the first officer and jumped on his lap," it quoted an airline spokesman as saying. "It gave him the fright of his life."

Several members tried to catch the frisky feline, but it escaped the way it came, into the gap between the roof of the hold and the floor of the flight deck and cabin of the Boeing 767. Ground staff and the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals joined the hunt at Gatwick, but the cat evaded them. Eventually, they started the cat into running into the nose of the plane under the flight deck where they could isolate it. Then it was a simple matter of putting down a plate of hamburger and waiting for the cat to get hungry.

## Jackson enters hospital but to perform today

SINGAPORE (Agencies) — Pop superstar Michael Jackson was left in a beige-coloured van, she said.

She said doctors had told her Jackson was in the hospital for three to four hours.

Jackson has recovered from a severe headache and will perform his postponed second concert here Wednesday, his doctor said Tuesday.

David Forecast told reporters that the performer would also continue with his Dangerous world tour after Singapore.

A taped message from Jackson, played at a news conference said, "I was suddenly taken ill and I apologise for the inconvenience. I will perform tomorrow. I love you all."

Jackson's mother defended the embattled pop superstar against child sex-abuse allegations Monday as family members announced they would soon fly to Asia to lend him support.

The normally fractious Jackson family emerged from seclusion for the first time since their most famous member became the target of molestation claims, repeating their unified pledge of support for him.

Jackson's mother, Katherine, who usually shuns the spotlight, told reporters, "First of all, I would like to let the world know that I am behind my son."

"I love him. I have talked to him several times (since the allegations surfaced). I plan to go and visit him very soon."

The saga now includes allegations that the father of the 13-year-old boy, a wealthy Beverly Hills dentist, tried to blackmail Jackson for \$20 million.

Lawyers for Jackson and the boy's father have been unavailable for comment.

Jermaine Jackson, Michael's older brother, said family members would join the singer at one of the stops on his Asian tour, but he said details had not yet been finalised.

Appearing with four other family members to promote an upcoming U.S. reunion concert, Jermaine reiterated a statement released last week in which the clan contended the singer was the victim in a "cruel, obvious attempt to take advantage of his fame and success."

Putting aside disputes that have divided the show business family for years, the Jackson family expressed its support for the embattled singer and said it was "confident that his dignity and humanity will prevail at this most difficult time."

Michael's father, Joseph, said he did not think the allegations of child sex abuse would hurt the family's contributions to children's charities. "I don't think that's going to happen," he said.

According to documents obtained last week from the California Department of Children's Services, the young boy involved in the allegations told a social worker that he and Jackson had a four-month relationship.

The boy said he began with affectionate cuddling, but escalated into sexual acts.

The case file contains descriptions of graphic sexual contact, including allegations of oral sex and masturbation.

Police investigating the case say that so far they have not uncovered any evidence to justify filing charges against the singer.

Meanwhile, fans of Michael Jackson, undaunted by the controversy surrounding the entertainer, Tuesday scrambled for tickets for his first-ever concert in South Africa, a spokesman for the booking company said.

Some 50,000 tickets were snapped up in 300 outlets countrywide within an hour of booking opening, Percy Tucker, managing director of botampacker, told AFP. He expected all 120,000 tickets to be sold by Tuesday afternoon.

Jackson is scheduled to perform twice at the FNB Park Rugby Stadium here on Sept. 30 and on Oct. 2.

"Demand for tickets from right across the spectrum regardless of age or colour," Mr. Tucker said. "It's the biggest demand for tickets we've ever had. Jackson is an enormous attraction."





Tennis star Monica Seles (centre) makes her way through photographers assembled for her news conference at the U.S. Open (AFP photo)

## Seles looks toward Australia

FLUSHING MEADOW (AFP) — Four months after she was stabbed by an obsessed tennis fan, Monica Seles is slowly making her way back, to a normal state of mind, the tennis court and public life.

She met the press Monday on the first day of the U.S. Open tennis championships, and admitted it was difficult to watch another Grand Slam get underway without her.

Though she declined to suggest a definite timetable for her return she did say: "It would be hard to watch another Grand Slam go by."

That would point to the Australian Open in January, though she said she would not want to start with a slam.

"Australia would not be my first step. It would be just too tough. I need some match play," she said. "But I just hope I won't have to miss it."

"I miss the sport. I miss practising. I miss the adrenaline when you go in a stadium."

"I've watched a little (on television). The first rounds it's OK, but when it gets to the semifinals and finals, it's hard."

"To me it's hard to understand that this happened and I'm missing these tournaments. It would be different if it was a (sports) injury and it came from me."

That feeling of helplessness is also at the root of Seles' frustration at her loss of the number one ranking.

After hiding away for several months Seles began speaking publicly again only last week, and one of the first things she did was criticise the Women's Tennis Association and her fellow

players for failing to protect her ranking.

"Since her attacker's avowed aim was to incapacitate Seles, thereby giving the number one ranking to his idol, Steffi Graf, Seles feels he profited from his action."

"I just felt that this person's goal was to stab me. He came out as the person who got what he wanted. He achieved what he wanted to achieve," she said, the frustration sounding in her voice.

Graf, who easily won her first-round match on Monday, said it would have been unfair to protect Seles' ranking.

"You've got to understand, all of us have got to play all year long and struggle through injuries and tough matches," Graf said, though she admitted that Seles' case was different from a game-related injury.

Seles acknowledged that it would have been difficult to let her keep the ranking.

"Tennis has always been very competitive and I learned that lesson when I first got to be number one," she said. "That is like the key position to everybody."

To help her cope with her feelings immediately after the stabbing, Seles followed her doctors' advice and talked to a psychotherapist.

She has also talked to other stabbing victims about their experiences.

"But now I feel," she said, "that it is me that has to go through it because I am going to be the one that is going on the court and I have to come to grips with it."

## U.S. Open Graf, Navratilova breeze through

FLUSHING MEADOW (AFP)

—Steffi Graf and Martina Navratilova, holding the citadel of women's tennis in the absence of Monica Seles, posted convincing victories Monday in the first round of the U.S. Open tennis championships.

Graf, the No. 1, and third-seeded Navratilova turned the opening day into ladies' day as none of the men's top eight seeds saw action.

Graf's 6-3, 6-0 victory over American Robin White took just 42 minutes and looked almost casual.

Navratilova, 36, outfoxed 18-year-old Italian Gloria Pizzichini 6-0, 6-1, but said that, these days, none of her matches is casual.

"Well, it used to be different because I could just sort of build up and get ready for the second week, but now I can't guarantee myself that I will be in the second week unless I really just give it 100 per cent," she said.

The Czech-born, American number four U.S. Open victories among her 18 Grand Slam singles titles, but said her approach to them had changed with time.

"I used to be able to get away with sort of being there 75 to 80 per cent, just sort of gradually build up. Last year, I barely escaped for granted."

Though still only 24, Graf has also noticed changes since her first stint at No. 1, and her glorious 1988 when she capped a Grand Slam with Olympic gold.

She has won five tournaments since May, including the French Open and Wimbledon, but said it was harder now.

"I have a lot of tough matches, close matches, that could have lost this year," she said. "A few years back, things were a lot easier."

Meanwhile, off court, Seles was continuing to overshadow the women's singles despite her absence from the draw.

Seles held a press conference at the National Tennis Centre to discuss her recovery from a knife attack at a Hamburg Tournament April 30.

Though she has yet to start practising again, Seles is hopeful of returning to challenge the likes of Graf again.

The only top 10 men's seed in action Monday, ninth-seeded Czech Petr Korda, lost a bumpy five-setter to unseeded South African Wayne Ferreira.

Korda threw away set points in the first and third sets, both of which Ferreira won in tie-breakers.

In a match in which neither player served well, Ferreira proved marginally less bad and won 7-6 (7-2), 4-6, 7-6 (9-7), 3-6, 6-2.

"I just couldn't serve today," said Korda. "I mean, my serve it just didn't work."

After the slow opening day, the

schedule was packed with stars.

Top seed Jim Courier, No. 2 Pete Sampras and third seed Stefan Edberg, the two-time defending champion, were all to play first-round matches Tuesday.

So was Andre Agassi, seeded only 16th but heir-apparent to the departed U.S. Open kings Jimmy Connors and John McEnroe.

Connors, 41, decided to skip the grueling fortnight while McEnroe will watch from the

broadcast booth.

Another home crowd favourite, seventh-seeded Jennifer Capriati, was to play her first round match Tuesday.

A couple of other women's seeds advanced Monday. Ninth-seeded German Anke Huber beat Loxenhorg's Kario Kschwendt 6-2, 6-2, and No. 10 Magdalena Maleeva of Bulgaria defeated American Marianne Werdel 7-5, 6-4.

### U.S. OPEN NOTEBOOK

NEW YORK (Agencies) — The U.S. Open, like a hotel or airline, is overbooked.

The U.S. Tennis Association was caught in a "clerical mix-up" Monday when it was discovered the 128-woman singles field contained 129 players.

The Women's Tennis Association said the problem concerned Beate Reinster of Austria and Maja Zivec-Skulj of Germany. Reinster was placed in the draw, with Zivec-Skulj overlooked despite a higher ranking on the cutoff dates for entries.

What to do? Simple. Stage an "extra preliminary round." So in the heat and humidity on one of the most remote courts at the National Tennis Centre, Reinster beat Zivec-Skulj 6-1, 6-4.

★ **Plain or seeded?** The first day of The U.S. Open produced more stares than stars. As spectators ambled from court to court, the big question was this: "Who's that?"

Of the 55 singles matches Monday, only seven involved seeds — No. 1 Steffi Graf, No. 3 Martina Navratilova, No. 4 Cocchi Martinez, No. 9 Anke Huber and No. 10 Magdalena Maleeva among the women, and No. 9 Petr Korda and No. 14 Alexander Volkov among the men.

That means 25 seeds will be on the courts as the first round is completed Tuesday and Wednesday. They'll be spread from the show courts through the back alleys of the National Tennis Centre.

★ **Hamburg's legacy:** The stabbing of Monica Seles more than four months ago in Hamburg, Germany has brought tighter security to the U.S. Open.

Players are escorted by security guards virtually everywhere within the complex, even on court. During matches, two guards sit behind the chair umpire, just in front of the stands. When players change ends, the guards come onto the court and face the stands, watching for "any sinister moves."

"I haven't noticed a difference yet, but I have only been here today," said Martina Navratilova, a four-time champion.

★ **Human triumph:** This was supposed to be the year when the Open went electronic, with the Tel System of beams and buzzers replacing the men and women judges on the show courts.

That plan was dropped last week, however, when officials said some brands of shoes were accidentally tripping the system.

Graf was among those who practiced with the Tel System and said she was happy with the decision to stay with people instead of machines.

"I am somebody who is not so much into electronics," she said. "And I prefer to have people sitting on your side because it is just part of tennis."

"Back to the drawing board for them," Navratilova said. "I think eventually it is a good idea, but they have to work out all the kinks."

★ **Early retirement:** The first player to quit playing at this U.S. Open was South Africa's Grant Stafford. He was leading Amos Mansdorf of 6-2, 7-6, 2-6, 0-1, when he stopped because of a stomach virus.

★ **Martina Navratilova** hopes to steer the women's tennis tour toward a higher quality schedule in her role as vice president of the Women's Tennis Association.

The 36-year-old player was elected Sunday night and was eager for the responsibility after shying away from it in the past.

"The players need to have a better reign on things and I selected myself, just to be a part of it," she said.

On tournament scheduling, she said, fewer events would mean higher quality fields, with top players meeting more often to generate interest among fans.

"You just don't have people playing each other and as a result, the Grand Slams get all the glory," she said.

## Jordan's bodybuilding finals set for Thursday

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan's 1993 bodybuilding competition will come to its final showdown Thursday when 27 finalists compete for the title at the Al Hussein Youth City.

The championship, which will be attended by the president of the World Bodybuilding Federation, Ben Weider, will include a special appearance by Jordanian world champion Mustafa Hassanain.

Mr. Weider arrived in Amman Wednesday on a three-day working visit during which he will meet officials representing the Ministry of Youth, the Jordan Olympic Committee, the Al Hussein Youth City and the Jordan Bodybuilding Federation.

## FIFA threatens to suspend France

ZURICH (AP) — France was threatened Tuesday with suspension from international soccer because of a growing bribery scandal.

Joao Havelange, president of world soccer's governing body, FIFA, slammed "prostration" by French soccer authorities to investigating bribery allegations against Olympique Marseille, the European champions.

Havelange said France must decide whether the team is guilty by Sept. 23, otherwise FIFA's Executive Committee would intervene, and "if need be enforce the terms and conditions of Art. 42 of FIFA's statutes."

"This article stipulates that, in the case of an emergency, suspend an association which would automatically incur suspension from international football activity," Havelange said in a letter to French Soccer Association President Jean Fournet-Fayard.

The European soccer authority UEFA, said it would meet Sept. 6 to decide what action to take.

The French association ignored an Aug. 30 deadline set by UEFA to name another club to replace Marseille in the European Champions Cup.

"The president of FIFA added that the impression was being given that those authorities responsible for France's football were not capable of reaching a decision," a FIFA statement said.

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Cagliari sack coach after one match

ROME (R) — Italian first division team Cagliari sacked coach Gigi Radice Monday after just one match of the new season. Cagliari were trounced 5-2 by Atalanta Sunday and were also out of form in recent warm-up matches. A club spokesman said Bruno Giorgi, dismissed by Genoa last October, would replace Radice. Radice was appointed during the close season after previous incumbent Carlo Mazzone moved to Roma. His insistence on playing a zonal defence brought him into conflict with club president Massimo Cellino. Radice was sacked by Fiorentina last January after falling out with Mario and Vittorio Cecchi Gori, the cinema producer father-and-son double act who own the club.

#### World champions on gold trail

PARIS (AFP) — Six athletes are still on course for a share of the golden four jackpot of 20kg of gold at Friday's Grand Prix meeting in Brussels. Brussels is the fourth meeting in the series and the winners from Oslo, Zurich and Berlin are Michael Johnson (USA) at 400m, Noureddine Morceli (Algeria) at 1,500m, Merlene Ottey (Jamaica) at 100m, Maria Mutola (Mozambique) at 800m, Sonia O'Sullivan (Ireland) at 3,000m and Trine Hattestad (Norway) in the women's javelin. With the exception of O'Sullivan, silver medalist in the 1,500m, all the others were crowned world champions at Stuttgart last week. If only one athlete finishes with a 100 per cent record, he is awarded the entire jackpot — that is 20kg of gold.

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### GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & YANNAN HIRSHI  
91988 Tribuna Media Services, Inc.

#### ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:  
91084 ♠A24 ♠K1072 ♠A97  
The bidding has proceeded:  
South West North East  
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass

What do you bid now?  
A.—Yes, we've wholeheartedly endorsed partner's major suit. To respond with three-card support, but not on this hand! With flat distribution and stoppers in the other suits, we feel a one-no-trump rebid is a more descriptive rebid.

Q.2—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:  
9676 ♠VJ5 ♠AQ6 ♠A1065  
The bidding has proceeded:  
South West North East  
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass  
1 NT Pass 3 ♠ Pass

What do you bid now?  
A.—You have a perfectly balanced hand, but partner does not, and your prime values suggest that your hand will play better at a suit contract than at no trump. Tell partner you have three-card spade support by bidding three spades. To rebid three no trump is simply repeating a message partner has already received.

Q.3—As South, vulnerable, you hold:  
90796 ♠965 ♠KJ775 ♠J8  
Partner opens the bidding with one no trump. What do you respond?  
A.—Possibilities for game exist if partner has a maximum, especially if there is a 4-4 spade fit. Indicate the possibility with a Stayman response of two clubs—a request for partner to bid a major suit, if possible.

Q.4—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

9AK78 ♠AQ85 ♠73 ♠K9  
The bidding has proceeded:  
North East South West  
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass  
2 ♠ Pass ?

What do you bid now?  
A.—You are in a slam territory, but whether you can make 12 tricks depends on the location of partner's values. Blackwood won't help. To start an orderly investigation, complete the description of your hand by bidding two spades, and see how partner reacts.

Q.5—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:  
9A78 ♠AQ8 ♠QJ9 ♠AQ107  
The bidding has proceeded:  
South West North East  
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass  
2 ♠ ?

What do you bid now?  
A.—Had partner responded at the one-level, you would have jumped to two no trump to show your balanced powerhouse. Since partner responded at the two-level, alert only with a raise, you can convey the same message by leaping to three no trump.

Q.6—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:  
9AQJ54 ♠AQ107 ♠K106 ♠5  
The bidding has proceeded:  
South West North East  
1 ♠ 2 NT Pass 3 ♠ ?

What action do you take?  
A.—Even though West's unusual no-trump overall shows the minors, your hand is suitable for play in any suit other than clubs, and has excellent defensive potential. Double. Since partner has not yet bid, that's for takeout. Diamonds are playable because partner will not remove to that suit, unless it's a five-carder.

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## Idea of Palestinian jail in Gaza brings predictions of violence

GAZA CITY, Occupied Gaza Strip (AP) — The garbage, sewage lakes and military checkpoints framing Gaza's main streets have yet to be swept away in anticipation of Yasser Arafat arriving with his autonomy plan. Civil war might come first.

Mr. Arafat's opponents have a strong base here rooted in the dire living conditions and decades of broken promises for better times ahead.

They want the autonomy plan to fail, warning of assassinations and bloodshed against the leaders who sell out the Palestinians. Whether they succeed depends largely on whether Middle East peace negotiators starting to hammer out the details in Washington Tuesday emerge with a plan that touches on the common dream for an eventual Palestinian state.

"If Arafat arrived tomorrow I am sure the people in Gaza and Jericho would celebrate. But the question is for how long — two months? Three months? Then what happens?" said Adnan Salim, a 32-year-old former Islamic Jihad activist who retired after being imprisoned.

By many accounts, that is when the bullets would start flying between Palestinians, if not sooner. So far opponents have limited their attacks to leaflets and wall graffiti like one reading, "If you don't take the route of blood, you will never reach Palestine."

The Islamic group Hamas demanded a strike Tuesday to protest the negotiations, warning Gazans that members would "cut the throat" of anyone who dared even drive around the Gaza Strip.

Cars on the roads were stoned and a 20-year-old Arab man painting slogans against the agreement on a wall was shot dead in a confrontation with

underground Israeli troops, Arab reports said. The army spokesman's office said it was checking the report.

The staunchest opponents are from the Islamic Jihad organisation, whose diverse branches throughout the Arab World reject the Jewish state. The Egyptian group took responsibility for assassinating President Anwar Sadat after he signed a peace treaty with Israel.

Islamic Jihad issued a series of leaflets saying it would exert every effort to make the treaty fail. The leaflet distributed Tuesday called for the PLO leadership to resign or face a death sentence.

Members say Mr. Arafat is the leader who merits assassination, while joking that Sadat might deserve a statue in Gaza's main square since his capitulation with the 1979 Camp David accords at least guaranteed the Palestinians autonomy after five years.

Palestinians have not hesitated to shoot other Palestinians dead when they were accused of collaboration — 750 alleged collaborators have been killed since the uprising started in December 1987.

To police the autonomy the Palestinians are training security forces in Jordan. The men are drawn from the occupied territories, as well as Yemen and elsewhere. But no one is sure that if autonomy is implemented within six months as envisaged they will have the experience necessary to cope with the pressure-cooker violence of Gaza.

"Mr. Arafat will take us and put us in jail because we are against the peace," said Mr. Salim, the former Islamic Jihad activist.

Opponents describe the plan as a trap dreamed up by Israel and the United States to force the

Palestinians to castrate their own armed struggle, because the autonomy government would be responsible for suppressing attacks against Israeli targets.

"It opens the gates for pain and civil war that we reject," Nayef Hawatmeh, leader of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, said in a telephone interview from Damascus.

"There will be Palestinians fighting Palestinians in Gaza and Jericho."

About 400 leaders of Hamas and Islamic Jihad were expelled from Israel last December and are stuck at the border with Lebanon. They are expected to start returning in September and have repeatedly argued for continuing to fight Israel.

Supporters in Gaza said the rank and file might reject directions to avoid inter-Palestinian violence.

So far Gaza's 800,000 residents — most packed into refugee camps where unemployment hovers around 75 per cent — have yet to take to the streets either in celebration or anger over the plan.

Most everyone is confused about the details.

Palestinians want to bear that the agreement will give them control over the territories occupied since the 1967 Arab-Israeli war, including Jerusalem. They want to be able to choose their own government. They don't want the Israeli army to enter their lives.

"If these conditions are not included it won't be accepted. This rejection will threaten both the position of the PLO and its leaders," said Yunis Al Jaroh, an attorney and spokesman for the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the second-most powerful group in the PLO.

## 77 activists denounce plan, urge resistance

AMMAN (J.T.) — Seventy-seven Palestinian political activists have issued a statement denouncing the "Gaza-Jericho first" option and calling on their people to resist it with all legitimate means.

The group, headed by Ibrahim Bakr, former deputy chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), said the proposal, approved by Israel and the PLO was an acceptance of partitioning further the "already-divided Palestinian lands and as such it poses new dangers to the cause."

"These dangers are represented by the complete silence over issues of Israeli settlements, Jerusalem and the applicability of the Geneva conventions to the occupied territories," the statement said.

"We found it imperative on us to directly address the Palestinian people by bypassing the PLO Executive Committee because the autocratic behaviour of Yasser Arafat has reached the limits of total disregard of the resolutions of PLO institutions like the Palestine National Council," the statement said.

"The Palestinian decisions are no longer taken by the Palestinian institutions, especially in serious matters, but by those who act as 'pioneers' in selling out the rights of the Palestinian people like the rulers in Cairo who have been dictating to Yasser Arafat and some of his assistants their views in total disregard to the resolutions of the PLO's institutions," the statement said.

The statement charged that Mr. Arafat had issued instructions to the Palestinian delegation to discuss the "old Israeli proposal" known as the "Gaza and Jericho first option."

"Such decision and instructions represent a Palestinian endorsement of the partition of the Palestinian soil and a further fragmentation of the Palestinian lands which are already dismembered by the Israeli settlements," it said.

"If the Israeli military rule with all its terrorist powers could not control Gaza, why should we relieve the Israelis of the burden of occupation," said the statement.

It said that this "free contribution means the opening of the way for the Palestinian people to slaughter one another."

"Now that matters have reached such deterioration, we appeal to the Palestinian people to employ all legitimate means at their disposal to prevent the Americans and Israelis from imposing an unacceptable and unfair formula which aims at transforming the negotiations along the Palestinian-Israeli track to final concessions and selling out the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people," it said.

Singatories of the statement included Bahjat Abu Gharib, Tayseer Qubba, Tayseer Khaled and Abdul Rahim Mallouh all former PLO Executive Committee members.

## PLO planning self-rule army

By Sulaiman Al Khalidi

AMMAN — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has begun reorganising the Palestine Liberation Army (PLA) units scattered throughout Arab countries to take over security after an Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho, PLO official said Tuesday.

They said that under the plan, the existing PLA brigade in Jordan has begun to be retrained into the core of a unit to be known as the Palestine Central Security Force (PCSF).

The force would eventually include more than 17,000 members throughout the West Bank and Gaza, PLO sources said.

It would turn many of the 5,000 Palestinian guerrillas and soldiers in existing camps in Sudan, Yemen, Iraq and Libya into security men for the PCSF, effectively ending the PLO's three-decade-old guerrilla army.

Under the PLO-Israeli accord being negotiated, the Palestinians will take over most functions of the Israeli military government including internal security and policing after withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho.

Another 4,500 to 5,000 fighters — mostly former Fatah guerrillas evicted from Lebanon — will be included in the force later, PLO sources said. Most of them are scattered throughout camps in Yemen, Libya, Sudan, Iraq and Algeria.

The PCSF will include at least 7,000 guerrillas who fought for the PLO but are not in camps.



Israeli soldiers check Palestinians in Gaza Tuesday morning after the Israeli government's decision to approve an agreement to grant Palestinians autonomy in the Gaza Strip and Jericho (AP photo)

## Israelis kill boy in paralysed Gaza

OCCUPIED GAZA (R) — Israeli undercover soldiers shot dead a 16-year-old Palestinian and three other Arabs were wounded in separate incidents in the occupied Gaza Strip Tuesday, Palestinians said.

They said soldiers disguised as Arabs fired at Azzam Ahn Imaneh from Nuseirat refugee camp when he ordered their vehicle to stop, thinking they were Arab labourers heading for work in Israel.

Abu Imaneh was hit in the head and died instantly. Another Palestinian was wounded in the incident.

A strike called by Islamic fundamentalists and dissident Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) factions to protest the resumption of Israeli-Palestinian peace negotiations Tuesday closed most of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

In the Gaza Strip, young strike

enforcers threw stones that damaged more than 30 Arab-owned cars that were driven in defiance of the strike call, Arab reports said. Shops and businesses were closed through East Jerusalem and the West Bank as well.

The Muslim fundamentalist group Hamas warned in its strike call that its supporters would "cut the throat" of anyone who dared use a car. Hamas, which considers the peace talks a sellout, is seen as the strongest threat to self-rule.

Many among the 350,000 Palestinian refugees in Lebanon appeared to have been caught off-balance by the speed of events after 22 months of fruitless Arab-Israeli peace talks.

187 exiles to return

Israel within 12 days will take back at least 187 Palestinians exiled to Lebanon nine months ago, Deputy Army Chief Amnon

Shahak told a parliamentary committee.

"They will be able to return by next weekend — all the rest in December at the completion of a year," a parliamentary official quoted General Shahak as telling the closed-door foreign affairs and defence committee.

Gen. Shahak said the Zemaraya crossing point to Israel's self-declared South Lebanon "security zone" would be opened for a day. On their return the exiles would undergo a security review.

"Based on the results of the investigation, it will be determined whether each person will be put on trial, under administrative detention or freed to return home," Gen. Shahak was quoted as saying.

He said their return along with progress on peace moves could arouse hostilities against Israel among Palestinians of the occupied territories.

## King, Assad discuss coordination

(Continued from page 1)

was not the subject of coordination with the Arab parties in the Middle East peace talks, he said. Jordanian officials said Jordan, which has extended to the Palestinians the umbrella of a joint delegation to the peace talks, was not consulted by the PLO over the agreement.

"The proposal was not even submitted to the King for discussion prior to the PLO's announcement that there was such a deal," said a senior official. "We are learning about the details about the agreement from media reports instead of the Palestinians themselves," he said.

The King himself implicitly criticised the PLO over the lack of consultations with Jordan.

Other officials said Jordan was upset that it was not briefed at all about the secret negotiations that the PLO held with Israeli officials in Europe outside the framework of the peace process.

"Anything that affects the West Bank will also affect Jordan," said another official. "As such, it was imperative that Jordan was consulted about the accord."

Political analysts said the lack of consultations with Jordan might even have negatively affected the Palestinian side in the negotiations that led to the accord.

"King Hussein, a statesman and head of state for 40 years, could have extended valuable political advice to the Palestinians," said a veteran analyst.

King Hussein, who was accom-

panied by Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali, Royal Court Chief Khaled Al Karaki and Military Secretary His Royal Highness Prince Talal Ben Mohammad, held three rounds of talks with President Assad before returning home.

Reports from Damascus said President Assad later briefed Lebanese President Elias Hrawi on the phone.

Lebanon, meanwhile, lashed out at the PLO-Israeli agreement and said it was unclear and gave Palestinians little power.

"There are two problems with this plan: there is no horizon. What lies after Gaza-Jericho? and powers given to the Palestinians within self-rule inside Gaza and Jericho are not sufficient," Foreign Minister Faris Bouteh told reporters in Beirut.

Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa "has also criticised the Palestinians for not informing their Arab partners in the peace talks."

Syria has neither officially endorsed nor rejected the Gaza-Jericho deal.

Syria's state-run media has stressed that Damascus rejects any "partial solution" to the 45-year-old Arab-Israeli conflict.

Mr. Bouteh told reporters in Beirut:

"Gaza-Jericho first" plan, as it is presented now, does not suggest the precision to assure everyone that the Palestinian people will gain back their land to build their state."

Asked what the agreement would mean for other issues at the 11th round of peace talks,

Mr. Bouteh said Arab partners to the peace process needed to be assured that it was just a first step.

"We cannot be joyful over what has been agreed upon as long as we do not see that Gaza-Jericho is a stage in a specified and complete project and as long as we do not see that self-rule includes complete powers we wish for the Palestinian people."

Mr. Bouteh said the Palestinians did not clearly explain the plan to their Arab partners at a Beirut meeting which ended on Saturday with them all agreeing to attend the 11th round.

He said he hoped an undertaking by the Arab partners to the peace talks to improve coordination meant that all parties would be fully informed before rather than after decisions were made.

"Until now features of this project are not clear, which suggest getting back Gaza and Jericho is an operation separate from a complete programme... (from an Israeli withdrawal from occupied territories)," he said.

"If this step was part of a complete programme... the matter would have been totally different," he added.

"What we have heard so far is that the Israeli army will retain its rights to interfere inside these areas," Mr. Bouteh said.

"Settlements will be (under) the Israeli army and boundaries of this area will be under direct Israeli surveillance."

"Therefore we see clearly that these powers are a lot less than what we aspire for the Palestinian people," he added.

## Muslims, Croats agree on confidence measures

GENEVA (Agencies) — Bosnian Serbs and Muslims agreed Tuesday on a series of confidence-building measures as part of an eventual peace accord, but were still apart on territorial questions, Sarajevo officials said.

Miro Lazovic, president of the Bosnian parliament, said the agreement was reached during a head-to-head meeting of Bosnia's Muslim President Alija Izetbegovic and separatist Serb leader Radovan Karadzic.

The accord covered five points, including establishment of a hotline between Sarajevo and the Serbs' headquarters at nearby Pale, cessation of hostilities and an "all for all" exchange of prisoners.

Also agreed was the creation of a joint commission on the restoration of water, gas and electricity in the war-battered Bosnia-Herzegovina and appeals to Serb and Bosnian media to end their propaganda war.

But Mirza Hajric, spokesman for the Bosnian government delegation, played down the significance of the agreement, saying it was only an adjunct to the main discussions on the map which had gotten "nowhere."

A plan presented by peace mediators to divide Bosnia into three ethnic republics would give the Muslims 30 per cent of the former Yugoslav republic, but the Bosnian government is seeking more.

The Bosnian Serbs would see their holding sliced from 70 to 52 per cent and have refused to go any further.

Mr. Izetbegovic described the proposed plan as "unfair," saying it rewarded Serbian and Croatian aggression. He renewed Muslim demands for an additional 10 per cent of Bosnian territory than the current plan calls for.

His foe, Mr. Karadzic, rejected Mr. Izetbegovic's demand and told Muslims they would lose the little land they now hold if war continued.

"If they don't sign, we and Croats could divide Bosnia in two," Mr. Karadzic warned.

Those attending the talks included Mr. Izetbegovic, Mr. Karadzic, Mr. Tudjman, Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic, and Bosnian Croat leader Mate Boban.

Mediators Lord Owen of the European Community (EC) and Thorvald Stoltenberg of the United Nations originally set Monday as the deadline for the parties to accept their peace plan for three ethnic republics linked by a weak central government.

The talks were delayed when Mr. Izetbegovic had problems leaving besieged Sarajevo.

Spaniards leave Mostar

Some 60 Spanish U.N. peacekeepers held hostage in the Bosnian city of Mostar by Muslim civilians for five days have been allowed to leave, a Spanish defence ministry spokeswoman said in Madrid.

"They began pulling out about 10 minutes ago and are returning to Medjugorje," the spokeswoman said at 1230 GMT.

The Spanish soldiers were trapped in the besieged Muslim quarter of Mostar last Thursday after escorting a U.N. relief convoy into the city.



## French mother is Eiffel Tower's 150,000,000th visitor

PARIS (R) — The Eiffel Tower greeted its 150,000,000th visitor Monday, a 33-year-old French mother who was showered with gifts and mobbed by waiting journalists.

"I don't know what to say. I'm very moved, happy and a bit surprised," Jacqueline Martinez told a swarm of reporters, photographers and television cameramen at the base of Paris' 320-metre (1,050-foot) metal tower. Behind Mrs. Martinez stood a downcast Spanish tourist who had missed his chance by a matter of seconds.

Mrs. Martinez was given a sporty red Citroen ZX Coupe, hoisted by helicopter to the tower's first floor where it stood next to a statue of the 104-year-old landmark's creator, Gustave Eiffel. She also received a huge bouquet of flowers, a guided tour of the tower's most visited monument and a gift voucher worth 150 times her age — 4,950 francs (\$845) — to buy souvenirs.

It was the third time Mrs. Martinez, a security guard at Paris' Charles de Gaulle-Rossy Airport, had visited the famous spire which has become the symbol of Paris. This time she brought her mother, two young sons and her five-year-old son.

The 100,000,000th visitor — the wife of a French taxi driver who won a car in 1983 — was there to congratulate her.

Hundreds of TV fans show up for U.S. chat show

NEW YORK (R) — U.S. chat show host David Letterman premiered his much-awaited programme on a new television network after hundreds of his fans waited outside a Broadway theatre to get in. A media feeding frenzy greeted the Late Show With David Letterman, with television satellite trucks, excited fans and a bust of the gap-toothed star carved in butter, all outside the historic Ed Sullivan Theatre where the show was taped.

Letterman, who received a standing ovation from the enthusiastic crowd of 400 as his new show opened, specialises in off-beat, satirical humour and his "Late Show" was poised to compete with "The Tonight Show," a U.S. tradition which has been broadcast nationally for three decades.

The taping began Monday afternoon with disappointed standby ticket holders outside the theatre and CBS Television Network executives watching via closed-circuit television in McGee's, an Irish bar next door to the theatre. Letterman's new venue is a Broadway and television landmark and was the site of the Beatles' first U.S. television performance on Feb. 7, 1964. His move to CBS, after a much-publicised rift with rival network NBC, was marked by appearances from actor Bill Murray, singer Billy Joel, and a cameo showing by film star Paul Newman.

Thal king donates \$320,000 to cool traffic hell

BANGKOK (R) — Thailand's revered King Bhumibol Adulyadej has donated eight million baht (\$320,000) to Bangkok police to help resolve the hellish problem of traffic in the capital, newspapers reported Tuesday.

The donation follows an unusual personal appeal from Queen Sirikit to do something about the terminal gridlock, which she said was putting Bangkok people into a bad mood and threatening the city's name, the "City of Angels."

"Bangkok is becoming desperate," the Bangkok Post daily quoted her as saying in a birthday message earlier this month. The capital was brought almost to a halt again Monday night as moonsoon downpours flooded major arteries. Cars on several major thoroughfares took more than an hour to move 100 metres.

800,000 take part in Notting Hill Carnival

LONDON (AFP) — Nearly 800,000 people took to the streets of West London for the final day of the Notting Hill Carnival, one of the biggest street festivals in Europe, police said. There were no major incidents of unrest during the course of the two-day event, organised by Britain's Caribbean community but attended by West Indians from throughout Europe, as well as others. In the past the carnival has been marred by violence and arrests. Nearly 8,000 police were deployed for the event this year. Less than 10 people were arrested for drunkenness.

## Palestinian refugees in Jordan split over Gaza-Jericho plan

By P.V. Vivekanand  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Palestinian refugees in Jordan Tuesday appeared deeply split in their reaction to the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) agreement on partial Palestinian control of the occupied Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho as part of interim self-rule arrangements.

In general, the opinion varied depending on the places of origin. Those who came from cities and villages in pre-1948 Palestine rejected any solution that does not address the implementation of U.N. general assembly resolution 194 which deals with their problems.

The resolution, passed in 1948, calls for allowing Palestinians displaced by the creation of the state of Israel to return to their homes or receive compensation.

While some refugees from the Gaza Strip and West Bank said either that the Palestinian problem will never be resolved if anyone depended on Israeli and American "goodwill and desire for peace," others said they would like to wait and see

whether the so-called Gaza-Jericho option meant total Palestinian control of territory without any Israeli interference.

Many of the refugees, having seen themselves pushed out of mandated Palestine in 1948 and again from the West Bank and Gaza in 1967, said they believed Israel had no intention to return land under its occupation.

They argued that the "Gaza-Jericho first" option could not be anything but part of an Israeli plan to get Palestinian endorsement of peace with the Jewish state and offer autonomy as a long-term arrangement. This, they said, would eventually clear the way for Israel to normalise relations with the Arab World and emerge as a regional economic power.

An equal number of refugees said it was too early to pass judgement on the plan, advocating patience ahead of the revelation of complete details of the agreement which the Israeli cabinet approved

Monday night. There were also a few voices of resignation to accepting that there is little the Arabs could do to get anything more than Israel is willing to give.

The headline view seemed to prevail in the Bekaa camp.

"The Gaza-Jericho first solution is the Gaza-Jericho last solution," said Hussein Ibrahim, a tailor in the camp. "Israel is not going to give anything more, now, five years later, or ever."

"We have seen the deceptive politics of not only Israel but also the PLO," said Ramadan Kamel, an unemployed youth whose family fled a village near Ramallah in 1967. "Now that the two have got together, nothing good is going to come out except a sellout of the Palestinian cause."

"What are the Israelis asking for? A good behaviour certificate from the Palestinians?" he asked. "Why don't the Americans force Israel just to withdraw from the land and leave the Palestinians to do what they want with it? Why all this autonomy and interim arrangements and what not?"

Sipping coffee in a small

shop in the sprawling camp, the biggest refugee camp in Jordan, Mr. Kamel also blamed "Arab disunity and pro-Western Arabs" for the Palestinian plight.

"If the Arabs were united and put up a strong front, then my family will not be in this camp," he said. "My parents still believe they can go back home, but I tell them not to dream."

Fatima, an elderly mother of six from Kalkalya in the West Bank, was furious that PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat accepted a deal with the Israelis without securing the right of refugees to return home immediately.

"Abu Ammar (Mr. Arafat) and his people will now go to Jericho and set up offices or do whatever they want," she said.

"What about us in this camp? Can we go home, and if so when? Are my grandchildren going to die of old age here?" Aminah, her neighbour, disagreed. "Abu Ammar will find a way through soon. We have to wait for some time more," she said with conviction. When pressed, she admitted that her two sons were ardent supporters

of Fatah, the mainstream PLO faction, but insisted that it had nothing to do with her trust in the PLO chairman, "who is honest and will not make bargains on Palestinian rights."

Mustafa Oheidi, a taxi driver, accused Mr. Arafat and "all other PLO leaders" of "seeking to serve their own personal objectives at the expense of the Palestinian people."

"Arafat would like to see himself carried on the shoulders of the Palestinian people across the bridge during his lifetime," said Mr. Oheidi, "that is his dream and ambition. He couldn't care less for what happens to the millions of Palestinians whom he claims to represent."

"Israel is taking Arafat for a ride, and Arafat in turn is taking us for a ride," he added. "Why can't they just announce that there is not going to be a Palestinian state and then leave us alone to think what we can do to regain our rights. We can do such thinking much better without people like Arafat."

"History will record that the

peace process was not a peace process but a surrender process," he said.

In downtown Amman, moderation appeared to be holding.

"We don't know yet what agreement Arafat has secured from the Israelis," said Nazmi Qawash, who works at a ready-made garments store. "I am willing to accept the Gaza-Jericho option if it means total and unequivocal Palestinian control of territory."

"I don't want Israeli soldiers to treat me like a beggar when I cross the bridge next time, or ever after that," he added. "If Arafat or anyone else can assure me of that then I am all in support of the plan."

Mr. Qawash's colleague, Saad Abu Rad from Jerusalem, said that was not enough. "The return of Gaza and Jericho or whatever should be coupled with an international declaration accepted by Israel and guaranteed by the United States that an independent Palestinian state will be created in five years."

"Then I will accept even one inch of land and put up a Palestinian flag there and wait